



MALV happenings

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Dr. Mohammad Eid

Hadith. What actions are most excellent? "To gladden the heart of a human being, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful, and to remove the wrongs of the injured."

Did you know? (Translation and Explication of Hadith) Allah's Apostle never proceeded (for the prayer) on the Day of Eid-ul-Fitr unless he had eaten some dates. Anas also narrated: The Prophet used to eat odd number of dates.

the MALV newsletter team

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letter from the editor

As the new Editor-in-Chief of MALV newsletter, I feel honored to be given the opportunity to bring the MALV newsletter along with my team of editors back to life. We are young and enthusiastic and hope to take this newsletter to new heights, so members of all ages can enjoy and look forward to our bimonthly issue. The newsletter can be used as a source to keep you updated of the happenings in your community as in the local Masjids, MALV Weekend Islamic School, Outreach Committee, Islamic Academy, College MSA's etc. It's a way to get to know your fellow Muslims and learn of new births, marriages and new

faces of the community as well as achievements of individuals. We have many many more ideas as well but most importantly we need to keep in mind the interest of the community, and for that reason we would love to hear your feedback and suggestions. To help us with our goal to keep this newsletter zestful, we would need everyone's help and contribution. Everyone is welcome to share their ideas and thoughts.

Please contact us at
MALVnewsletter@gmail.com.

Editor -in-Chief
Khizera Tariq

announcements

-Mirza Baig resigned as secretary of MALV due to personal reasons. Tihamiyu Salau will be the new secretary for rest of the term.

-There is a new security system installed at MALV. This system includes infrared cameras and will be used to monitor all activities in the kitchen, lobby, and parking lot areas of MALV. Recording will be available for review if needed. The cost of system was \$8000.

-There will be a Physician's seminar on October 6th and November 4th at 6:30 p.m. at MALV social hall. Dinner will be served. We ask all physicians to attend this seminar as it helps MALV to raise much needed funds.

-Drs. Ashraf Oloufa and Sarra Tili recently moved to Florida. They donated their house which is worth around \$250,000 to MALV. This is the house adjoining MALV property where you see sign "Allah" displayed.

MALV outreach committee

The Outreach Committee (OC) was established in 2004 under the supervision of MALV's Executive board (EB) and Board of Trustees (BT). The purpose of the OC is to facilitate all outreach related programs. It currently consists of 25 members who voluntarily coordinates and executes all outreach activities that are vital to the function and success of the Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley. This year, the OC budget of \$10,000 per year was increased to 20,000 per year as much more people are struggling due to the economic crisis.

Over the past several years, the OC has been providing assistance to the needy Muslims of the Lehigh Valley. Applications for families in need can be obtained from the Masjid's office. The

relief program of the OC also focuses outside of its community and assists the Lehigh Valley Community at large by creating a relationship of giving. It provides money and volunteers on a quarterly basis to Kidspace, The 6th street Shelter and St. Paul's Soup Kitchen. One of the on going activities of the OC is to serve meals at the Soup Kitchen to 125-200 people (including children). The OC participates in this at least 4-8 times a year. The OC also provides Training seminars on Islam to the clients and professional staff at Kidspace four times a year in addition to providing weekend Islamic classes at the Kidspace facility. Recently, the OC developed a Muslim Student Association (MSA) program to

build relationships with local colleges and assists local MSA's in providing awareness of Islam. In addition, the OC produces Muslim speakers from among its own ranks. They offer shadowing, training, and carefully crafted power point presentations for interfaith and dawah activities.

the MALV OC Members

May Allah reward them for their commitment, time, and effort.

Abdul Malik Baker, Akbar Rafiuddin, Anwar Karim, Fatima Nabavian, Hammad Ahmed, Hebat El-Turky, Jason Abdullah Monaco, Lani Siddique, Matin Moosa, Naveed Cheema, Norah Yousef, Nusheen Beik, Ramy Ahmed, Reza Subhani, Rizwan Butt, Sajjad Shah, Tarak Kamal, Taufik Syamsuddin, Wael Khansa, Waseem Akhter, Yoosef Nabavian.

ACTS of kindness

Acts of Kindness and Sincerity
by Melissa Mouchref.

"He who observed the fasts of the month of Ramadan out of sincerity and hoping for the reward from Allah, he will have his past sins forgiven." [Sahih Al Bukhari]

We learn from the Qur'an that with the sole intention of committing a good deed for the sake of Allah (SWT) will be accepted, regardless if it could be carried out or not. We as Muslims, need to make certain that we are committing good deeds with the right intentions not only in this month of Ramadan but through every aspect of our lives. Rasulullah SAW said, "Allah says, "All

the deeds done by the sons of Adam are for themselves only, but fasting is for Me and I will reward him." Fasting, (Sayam) is unique from other four pillars of Islam in that it requires, yet brings out a different level of Iman in Muslims. One major aspect of Fasting is the intention. Many fall under the trap of paying Zakat during the holy month so others may take notice. This is one way in which, we as Muslims can improve our Iman, by taking notice to these sorts of actions in which we think nothing of. When giving Zakat, the Rasul would suggest doing it in private to avoid having the wrong intention of showing off to others. As a believer, make it a priority to have the right intention in every step you take in life.

Another good deed, which we as Muslims should practice, is forgiveness. We constantly are making Tawbah, constantly seeking forgiveness from Rab Al-Alameen. Do we ever look in the mirror and ask ourselves whether we are being just and merciful to the people around us and around the world? The month of Ramadan is also referred to as the month of forgiveness, since Allah is willing to forgive us for our sins. Should we not forgive each other for our shortcomings? Prophet Muhammad (SWS) showed the best example of forgiveness. During the time of the Rasul, an old woman made a habit of throwing rubbish on the Prophet Muhammed (SWS) whenever he passed by her house. He had to pass her house daily on the

acts of kindness continued.

way to the Masjid. Even when the old woman threw rubbish on him, he would pass quietly without showing enmity or discontent. One day, when Prophet Muhammed (SWS) was walking past the woman's house, he noticed the woman was not there to throw rubbish. Prophet Muhammed (SWS) stopped and asked the neighbor about her welfare. The neighbor informed the Rasul that the woman was ailing and bedridden. Prophet Muhammed (SWS) politely asked permission to visit, and when allowed, he entered the house. The old woman thought that he had come there for avengement when she was unable to avert herself because of her ailment. However, Prophet Muhammed (SWS) assured her that he had come to her, not to take any revenge. He had come to see her and to look after her needs, as it was the command of Allah (SWT) that if anyone is sick, a Muslim should visit him and should help him (if help is needed). The old woman was greatly moved by this love and kindness of Prophet Muhammed (SWS). By the action of the Rasul, she understood that he was truly the Messenger of Allah (SWT) and Islam was the true religion. She accepted Islam at once by reading Shahadah. Subhan Allah. "Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not love that Allah should forgive you?" [An-Noor (The Light) 24:22]



Iftar poem

by Shannon Saymaz.
(Guest Columnist)

During the holy month of Ramadan,
As the sun's rays disappear beneath the horizon,
friends and family gather at their local mosque
to full fill their obligation.

Allah, Subhanahu wa ta'ala invites us:
the old, the young,
men, women,
even the children.
All who are capable,
to break their fast
at the Iftar table.

In the eyes of the thirsty,
plastic cups are crystal glasses.
In the eyes of the hungry,
paper plates are fine chinaware, and disposable forks, knives,
and spoons are gold plated sacred utensils.

We are both sultans and humble servants at God's Banquet,
opening our meal with sweet dates and rejuvenating water,
remembering the poor whose stomachs rumble like thunder.



What is Ramadan?

by Shamial Ahmad

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar is the month of fasting in which Muslims all around the world are to refrain from eating & drinking from sunrise to sunset. They do everything possible to seek the pleasure of Allah (SWT) by participating in intensive prayers, seeking Allah's forgiveness, reciting the Quran, exercising strict control over ones tongue, eyes, ears, thoughts and deeds. The purpose of fasting is meant to teach us patience and helps to strengthen and purify oneself through self restraint and good deeds such as being kind and courteous towards others.

As a Muslim myself, this month is very special to me, and one that I look forward to each year. I very much enjoy the weekend Iftars at the Masjid with the entire community. It's amazing how in this month by practicing self restraint, one learns to appreciate things that were taken for granted for months before, such as food and water.

Fasting may seem hard, especially after we have just spent a year indulging in ex-

cessive amounts of food but we must understand that the purpose of Ramadan is much greater than just keeping ones stomach empty from sunrise to sunset. Fasting is an important pillar of Islam and is obligatory for all adults and sane Muslims. The act of fasting is meant to redirect the heart from everyday evil and in turn purify ones inner soul and free it from harm. During this month, one realizes and feels sympathetic towards the poor and the hungry, the ones who go without food and water for days, and most importantly one learns to appreciate the blessing of Allah SWT.

The month of Ramadan also carries a historical significance for Muslims. One of the most important nights during Ramadan is Laylat al-Qadr. It is considered to be the holiest of all night because it is believed to be the night in which Angel Gabriel revealed first of many verses of the Quran to Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). On this night, reading Quran and praying all night is an opportunity to have all your prayers heard and answered. For this reason, throughout the entire month of Ramadan, Muslim's take part in additional prayer services known

as Taraweeh in which the completion of Quran takes place. Some members of our community, especially the men go to the Masjid in the evening and perform Taraweeh prayer in congregation, as there is much reward for praying in congregation.

Ramadan is a special month for my family and our community as a whole, since we all come together during this month and forget about of materialistic desires in a combined effort to better ourselves as human beings. And I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way.

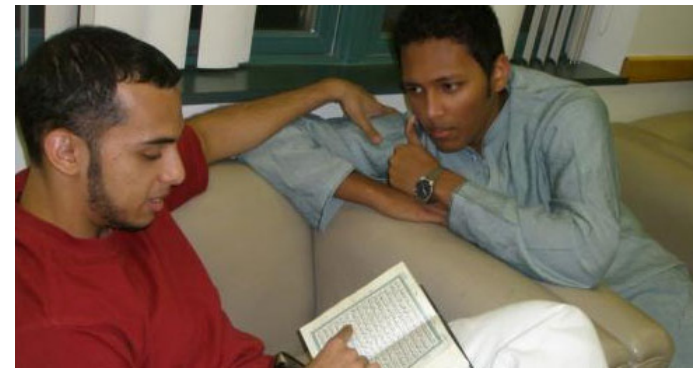
“malvneedsyou” because...

- You are the reason for its continuous growth & progression.
- Your support and involvement is the key to its success.
- You and ONLY you can help make a difference.

sowhatareyouwaitingfor?

- Join MALV today!!!
- Membership application and details can be found on www.malv.org

Interview Hafiz-ul-Quran Teenager of Lehigh Valley



Interview by
Anika Riaz
Left Bilal Mannan,
Right Sohaib Mannan

The Quran is the greatest message of Allah (SWT) to Humanity. It is a book of guidance for success in life and the hereafter. Numerous Muslims around the world gain its knowledge through reciting the Quran, yet few have the will power and determination to memorize the beautiful book in its entirety. A young individual in our community has put in a great deal of time and effort to make it possible. Sohaib Mannan has reached a great achievement of becoming a Hafiz-ul-Quran.

Born and raised in Saudi Arabia for 16 years, Sohaib started his quest for memorizing the Quran at the age of 12. While attending Quran School, it took him 2 years to complete the Quran. After memorizing the wonderful Quranic verses in correct pronunciation, revision has been a vital part in his everyday schedule. Gaining spiritual qualities from the Quran, Sohaib has led several of the Taraweeh prayers this Ramadan. At the young age of 18, courage, along with the help of Allah (SWT) allows him to perform such a righteous task. Here are a few answers to questions about his life's journey.

Q and A

Anika Riaz: After memorizing the Quran, what qualities have you gained from the experience?

Sohaib: If there's one thing, I'd say it's discipline, because things don't go too well if you lack that. I mean other than the fact that I memorized, I don't know where I'd be or what kind of person I would've been if I never had that experience. It helped me build a strong religious base involuntarily.

Anika: What activities do you like doing for fun, besides reading the Quran?

Sohaib: I usually hang out with friends on weekends, play basketball or ultimate Frisbee when the weather outside is awesome, go to the movies, spend time with my family and brothers, and look for cool places to eat out. I also really like to cook food. Mostly Desi (South Asian).

Anika: How did you memorize and retain the Quran?

Sohaib: I went to school for that, remember? It was like this whole process, you

memorize the new material for the day, and revise the old and so on. After I did the memorizing part, I have to revise it now, so I don't forget it. I try to do that every day as best I can, although I tend to slack which is not good.

Anika: Do you like the American experience?

Sohaib: Yeah it's not bad now that I know so many people. The first year kind of dragged because I missed my friends and all. One thing I still haven't gotten over is the food. Food back in Riyadh was amazing!

Anika: How does leading the Taraweeh prayers feel and why?

Sohaib: I'd say nervousness, that's the only feeling when I'm up there. No matter how well I know my thing for the day so many things can go wrong.

Anika: Do you feel accomplished after you finish your part of the Taraweeh prayer?

Sohaib: Yeah for the day, but it's more like a sense of relief I guess.

Anika: Any advice that you would like to tell those who struggle at memorizing the Quran?

Sohaib: Memorizing takes a couple of years, keeping it memorized takes a lifetime; and the latter is a requirement.

Anika: Thank you for taking out time to answer some of these questions.

Sohaib: Thanks a lot to you too for taking the time to actually interview me.

“Forgiveness from Allah (SWT)” – Erum Tahir (Kanwal), Bethlehem

“Spending time with my family and maybe going to Six Flags” - Youssif Sewidan, 6th grade, Whitehall Copley School

“Looking forward to celebrate the spirit of Eid with my friends and family and everyone in the Masjid” - Nagi Latefa, Macungie

“I want to celebrate it with my family and call my relatives in the USA and over seas” - Shoaib Chaudhary, Macungie

“Get together with friends and family and eat special foods” - Ana Henry, Allentown

“Eid prayer, meeting friends, and expecting good food from the president of the mosque” - Arshad Jamal, Whitehall

What are **U**looking forward to this Eid?

“Seeing everybody from the mosque, coming to the Eid prayer and being closer to my family” - Samira Belhaj, 11th grade, Parkland high school

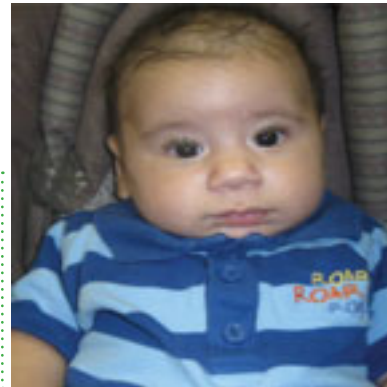
“I am looking forward to eat before my soccer games so I can do better during the season and also have more focus on my studies” - Abdul Nazif, 11th grade, Whitehall school district

“To be more close to Allah, and help people who can't fast” - Leida Zahran, Whitehall

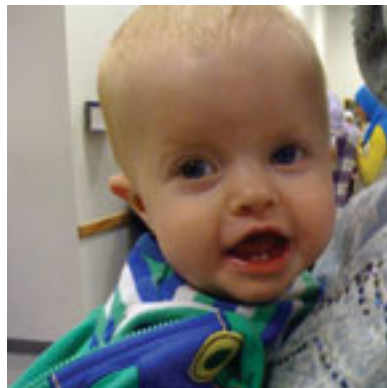
New births



Yusuf Sami Saymaz
Born on August 24th 2009.
Son of Murat and Shannon Saymaz



Omar Hakim
Born on June 2nd 2009.
Son of Nancy and Ahmad Hakim
(Ahmad Hakim is the owner of 99cents Giants & Bargain King on 14th & Tilghman St)



Abdullah
Born on Dec, 9th 2008
Son of Maureen and Jason Abdullah
Monaco



Hibah
Born on Dec, 18th 2008
Daughter of Humera and Naveed Karim

Kids corner crossword puzzle

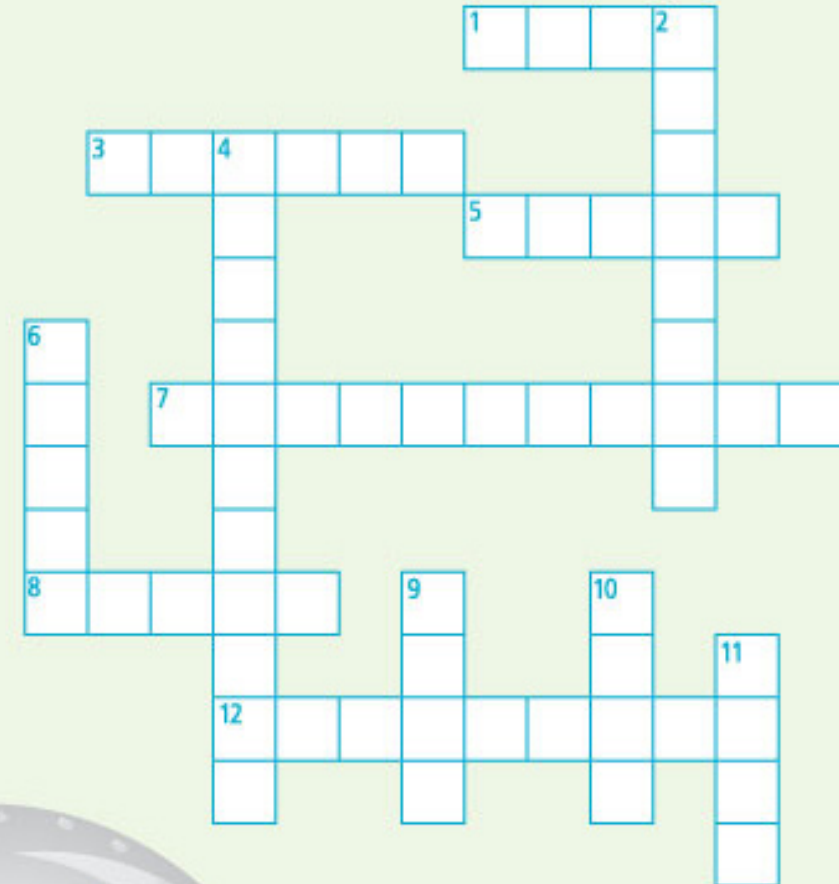
Test your knowledge of Ramadan with this crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

- Islamic religious leader
- An Islamic place of worship
- The Muslim holy text
- The primary duties of a Muslim are called this
- Islamic name for God
- Country with the largest Muslim population

DOWN

- The prophet who founded Islam
- Islam originated in this country
- The city where Islam was founded
- The Islamic calendar is based on this
- During Ramadan, Muslims are expected to do this during the daytime hours
- What the pilgrimage to Mecca is called



- ANSWERS**
- ACROSS
1. IMAM
3. MOSQUE
5. KORAN
7. FIVE PILLARS
8. ALLAH
10. FAST
11. HAJI
- DOWN
2. MUHAMMAD
4. SAUDI ARABIA
6. MECCA
9. MOON
12. INDONESIA