

# The Hedaya Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication of the Al Hedaya Islamic Center, Newtown CT.

115 Mt Pleasant Rd, Newtown CT 06470; Mail: PO Box 4558, Danbury CT 06813 E-mail: info@msgdanbury.org



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[msgdanbury.org](http://msgdanbury.org)

## Al Hedaya Center opens at Newly Purchased Property in Newtown CT!

Center given C.O. for East Bldg. - opened on **July 20 2012**

Community struggle bears fruit as Masjid, School, Dawa, Hifz, Youth Group and Community activities Surge!

Assalaam alaikum!

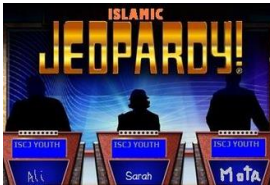
Alhamdulillah, the Al Hedaya Islamic Center passed the last of a sequence of 4 building inspections [Framing & Mechanicals, Insulation, Electrical, C.O.] on **Friday July 20th 2012** after Volunteer Contractors: Brs Amin, Kurteem, Nick, Omar, Harun, Hassan, Minur & Nejat hammered away at the last few tasks - to complete the East building literally hours before the Month of Ramadan began.



The Hedaya Center was also blessed during these hectic days with Sheikh Ali Ahmed's acceptance to lead the community as an Imam during the blessed Month of Ramadan. Sh. Ali Ahmed has been a Hafiz of the Quran since the age of 13 and has led Taraweeh for 17 years at several Masajid in the San Diego CA area where he grew up. Sh. Ahmed founded the Television show "Islamic Jeopardy" now broadcast across the Muslim World by Huda TV.



Sh. Ahmed worked with youth and adults across our community on a daily basis with Workshops for Youth, Classes on Aqeedah for Brothers, Sisters and a daily class on taleem after Fajr at the Masjid. Shk. Ahmed also lead a fundraiser on the night of Khatm al Quran at the Hedaya Islamic Center towards completing the Masjid (West) Building, Alhamdulillah. The community at the Hedaya Center prayed Eid-ul-Fitr in Jama with the Baitul Mukarram community in Danbury at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with Sh. Ahmed as Imam.



In an effort to leverage the strengths and resources of the area Masajid for the common benefit and unity of the Muslim communities across the Greater Danbury region, the Al Hedaya Islamic Center hosted region-wide Mashuraa (consultations) on Sunday mornings at 'Br Johns Breakfast after Fajr' weekly gatherings. Discussions with community representatives from the Baitul Mukarram Masjid led to agreements to have a joint Eid Salah on Friday October 26th 2012 at the Amber Room with our Brothers and Sisters from the Danbury Masjid. A historic turnout of well over 1,000 attendees made this Eid-ul-Adha an especially joyous & special one for the entire Muslim community across the region, Alhamdulillah!

Send us your Letters - Tell us what you think - your feedback and comments on this Issue of The Hedaya Newsletter are invaluable!



The Al Hedaya School's goal is to enable our children to become Great Muslims, inshaAllah, like their ancestors in faith such as Al Ghazali, Al Khwarizmi, Ibn Sina (Avicenna), Abbas bin Farnas, Ibn Al-Haitham (Al Hazen), Ibn Battuta and many other giants, on whose shoulders much of the Secular Humanist worlds advancements today stand - across the disciplines of Legal Philosophy, Science, Astronomy, Math, Medicine, Law and Finance.

The thrice-weekly After School Program on Quran'ic reading & Islamic Studies, a daily (Pilot) Full-time School Program [enrollment closed for 2012-2013], Youth Groups (Sisters, Newsletter Youth Group, Basketball, Soccer, Martial Arts [Taekwondo, Judo] ) and Workshops with visiting Scholars make up the core of the School Programs now offered to children - please check our website for schedules and meeting times. The Ibn Battuta Language Institute offering Beginner Language Instruction in Arabic, Spanish and Mandarin to become operational early in 2013 inshaAllah - please stay tuned for announcements & Schedule.



Above: Completed East Bldg. Below: Jumma (Fri Prayer) in the East Building



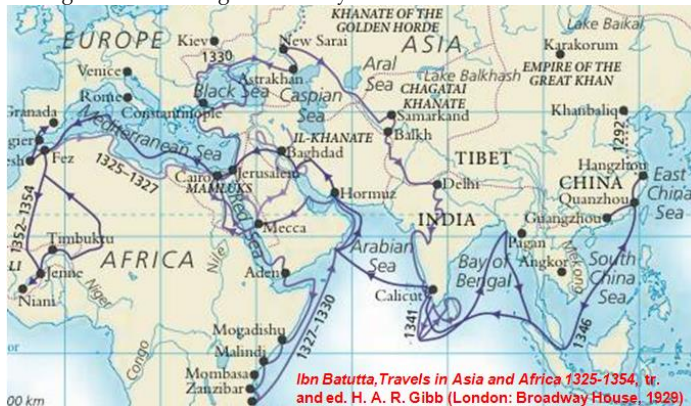
## Friday Programs for Youth at the Hedaya Center

The Friday Evening Programs at the Hedaya Center are intended to complement the Classroom material in a fun and relaxed atmosphere where children and their Parents enjoy movies on Islamic Themes or a relevant presentation with Pizza, bottled water and Popcorn!

### Friday November 9th 2012

**"Journey to Mecca"** by National Geographic:

Journey to Mecca is a dramatic and documentary feature from National Geographic that tells the amazing story of Ibn Battuta, the greatest explorer of the Old World, following his first pilgrimage between 1325 and 1326 from Tangier to Mecca. *Abū Abd al-Lāh Muhammad Ibn Abd al-Lāh l-Lawāṭit-tangi Ibn Batūtah*, or simply Ibn Battuta (February 25, 1304-1368 or 1369), was a Muslim Moroccan explorer, known for his extensive travels, accounts of which were published in the *Rihla* (lit. "Journey"). Over a period of thirty years, he visited most of the known Islamic world as well as many non-Muslim lands; his journeys including trips to North Africa, the Horn of Africa, West Africa, Southern Europe and Eastern Europe in the West, and to the Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and China in the East, a distance surpassing threefold his near-contemporary Marco Polo. Ibn Battuta is considered one of the greatest travelers of all time. He journeyed more than 75,000 miles (121,000 km), a figure unsurpassed by any individual explorer until the coming of the Steam Age some 450 years later.



### Friday Nov 16th 2012:

#### Presentation on Drug Abuse

*Substance Abuse in Public School Environment and an Interactive Session with Children:* According to reports from the National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA], the percentage of America's 8th - 12th graders who use marijuana continues to increase. In an effort to protect the children in our community - by raising awareness of the devastating effects of illicit drugs, on the topic and on what parents, children and community can do to detect and deter any potential threat to our children.



### Friday Nov 30th 2012:

**"Muhammad: The Last Prophet."** (PBUH): is an animated production of the early days of Islam. This cartoon film aims to introduce Islam and the last and final Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to children and adults alike. The prophet, PBUH is not personified in any way or form. "Muhammad: The Last Prophet"(PBUH) movie is the story of Islam, reviewed in its content for authenticity by Scholars at Al Azhar University - is a must see for Muslim Children !



### Friday Dec 7th 2012:

#### "Boys and Dads Night Out - in the Masjid"

Boys prepare presentation on different *Sahabi* with best presentations receiving Awards & Prizes. Interactive workshops on Virtues of *Tahajjud*, *Qiyam ul Layl* and praying in *Jama* at the Masjid by Senior Brothers in the Community. Breakfast after Fajr to include a sampling of simple, home-made nutritious food from Palestine, Macedonia, Morocco, Pakistan, Egypt, Thailand, Philippines and Bangladesh - prepared by natives from the above regions in our community.

### Boys & Dads Night Out - In the Masjid

Where: Friday, Dec 7th 9:00PM - Sat Dec 8th 12:30PM

Age Groups: 7-10; 11-14

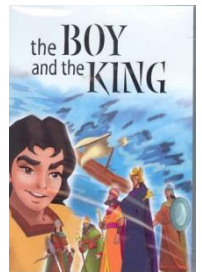
Bring: Sleeping bag, Pillow, Good manners

Do not bring: video games, iPod, iPhone, iPad etc.

### Al Hedaya Islamic Center

### Friday Dec 14th 2012:

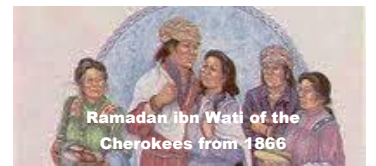
**"The Boy and the King"** is an Animated movie (88 min) from Astrolabe Productions, whose story is taken from an authentic narration or a hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that explains the reference to "the people of the Ditch" in *Surat Al-Burooj* from the Qur'an (85:4). The Quran'ic story is about a boy (Obaid) who believes in Allah SWT, and he is blessed with divine protection from the plotting of a wicked king (Narsis) and a sorcerer (Cinatas).



### Friday Dec 21st 2012:

**"Muslims in American History - a forgotten Legacy"** - Br John Burrow leads a discussion in which he also presents a video of Dr Jerald Dirks of the Harvard Divinity School who confronts the prevalent myth that Islam in America is a relatively recent phenomenon.

In reality, there is a centuries long history of the Muslim presence in America, which is all too often overlooked or misidentified. Written documentation, linguistic evidence, and reports of early Spanish explorers of the New World suggest Muslim contact with the Americas prior to Columbus. Muslims and Moriscos sailed with Columbus and were part of many of the Spanish explorations of the New World. At least one Muslim fought for American independence during the Revolutionary War, and many other Muslims were prepared to fight to keep American independence during the War of 1812. Another prominent Muslim was part of the taming of the Wild West. Beginning in the late 19th century, successive waves of Muslim immigrants enriched America, and the phenomenon of Americans converting to Islam became increasingly widespread. In reviewing this history, Dr Dirks presents a series of brief biographies of individual Muslims to illustrate the Muslim presence at each stage in American history. These biographies provide valuable role models with which Muslim youth in America can identify as they search for their identities as both Americans and Muslims.



Ramadan ibn Wati of the Cherokees from 1866



### Friday Dec 28th 2012: Program TBD

**Hedaya School Awards during November 2012:**

**Huffaz of the Month Award:**

**Br Muqsith Rafi, Level 7**

**Br Nihal Nawaz, Level 5**

For memorizing Sura Rahman

**Student of the Month Award:**

**Sr Nishwa Nawaz, Level 6 &**

**Chair, Hedaya Newsletter Youth Group,**

For outstanding efforts in organizing the Newsletter Youth Group meetings and for coordinating outstanding contributions to the Youth Section of this inaugural issue of the *The Hedaya Newsletter!*

**Class Representatives of the Hedaya School**

**Level 4:**

**President:** Naha Nawaz

**Vice President:** Afra Rafi

**Secretary:** Yaseen K

**Level 5:**

**President:** Yacodou Johnson

**Vice President:** Noureldeen Ahmed

**Secretary:** Rajin Ahmed

**Asst. Secretary:** Rameezah Ahmed

**Level 6:**

**President:** Khaled Elmady

**Vice President:** Nishwa Nawaz

**Secretary:** Nrdeen Ahmed

**Asst. Secretary:** Shihab Ahmed

**Level 7:**

**President:** Raha Ahmed

**Vice President:** Muqsith Rafi

**Secretary:** Nedyanta Jallow

**The Hedaya Newsletter Youth Section**

**Chair:** Nishwa Nawaz

**Secretary:** Souriya Taouil

**Copy Editor:** Rameezah Ahmed

**Editor-in-Chief:** Muadh Bhavnagarwala

**Bake Sale by Level 5 Youth Raises \$ for Masjid**

All praise to Allah the Most High! The Level 5 Class has been baking up something great! The idea for the bake sale first came upon the approaching first 10 days of *Dhul-Hijjah*. During these days, good deeds are most beloved to Allah the Most High. Level 5 held its first bake sale offering cookies, chips and other goodies and made \$69.52 in less than an hour! Based on the success of this event, another bake sale was held two weeks later during the Youth Movie Night. The sale brought in \$125, for a grand one month total of \$194.52! Level 5 will be conducting the Bake Sale bi-weekly on an ongoing basis, *inshaAllah*.

Dua on entering your home:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ خَيْرَ الْمَوْلِجِ وَخَيْرَ الْمَخْرَجِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَلِجْنَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ رَبَّنَا نَتَوَكَّلُ

"O Allah, I seek a good entry and a good exit. We take Allah's name to enter and to exit and rely on Him who is our Lord.

Have you ever wondered why backbiting is wrong? Well, if you did wonder that, I will tell you now! Allah the Almighty has actually told us that in the *Quran*.

Backbiting means, to say bad things about another when the person is absent. It is a bad habit which Allah the Almighty has strongly forbidden. In the *Quran*, Allah the Most High tells us in *Surat Al-Hujarat* 49:12 (interpretation of the meaning), "O you who believe! Avoid suspicion, as much (as possible), for suspicion in some cases is a sin. And spy not on each other, nor speak badly about each other behind their backs. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of your dead brother? No, you would abhor it. But fear Allah, for Allah is oft-returning most merciful."

In this verse, Allah the Most High stresses His dislike for backbiting by comparing it to eating the flesh of one's dead brother.

There are also some important words to be mindful of in this interpretation of the verse. Abhor means to disapprove of or reject something very strongly. In the verse, we are told that all of us would abhor to actually eat the dead flesh of a human being. We should keep this image in our mind when we think about speaking badly about another person. Suspicion is an unsubstantiated belief that something is the case, especially a belief that something wrong has happened or that somebody may have committed a crime. In the verse, we are told to avoid this behavior.

We should never backbite, and if we ever hear someone backbiting we are not to join in with them but we should walk away and give them a reminder that Allah the Almighty has forbidden this. Backbiting is mean and very hurtful and it can also ruin a person's reputation. When talking about other people, one should think, "Would I be able to say these things to the person's face?" If you do not think you could, then you should not be speaking this thing. And even if you would say this mean thing to a person's face, then you should evaluate your own actions, as this is not behavior befitting the character of a Muslim.

**Al Hedaya Islamic Center Engages in Interfaith Activity**

Invited to Interfaith Gatherings in Newtown, Danbury and Southbury, Youth from the Hedaya School and members of the Hedaya Islamic Center welcomed the opportunity to meet with our neighboring Christian and Jewish Communities and plan for future events.



**Above left:** Muadh With Rev. Angelo S. Arrando, President ARC Danbury CT.



**Above Right:** Muadh with Rabbi Shaul Praver from Congregation Adath Israel, Newtown CT.

**Below:** At ARC Breakfast in the Amber Room





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Tel: 203-426-0589; email: [info@msgdanbury.org](mailto:info@msgdanbury.org)

**Mailing Address:** MSGD, PO Box 4558, Danbury CT 06813

**Postmaster:** Please forward Address Changes to our Mailing Address above.

**Salah Iqamah Timings at Al Hedaya Islamic Center:**

Salah	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-31	Jan 1-15	Jan 16-31
<b>Fajr</b>	6:00	6:15	6:15	6:15
<b>Duhr</b>	12:30	12:30	12:30	12:30
<b>Duhr on Sundays</b>	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00
<b>Asr</b>	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:30
<b>Maghrib</b>	5 min after sunset	5 min after sunset	5 min after sunset	5 min after sunset
<b>Ishaa</b>	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
<b>Jumma</b>	1:30	1:30	1:30	1:30

**Weekly Halaqa for Sisters:**

Fridays 8:30PM - 9:30PM; Mondays 6:30PM - 7:30PM;

**Weekly Halaqa for Brothers:**

Wednesdays: 7PM - 8PM (beginning 12/12/12)

**After School Schedule:** Fridays - Class: 6:00PM - 8:00PM,

Program: 8:10PM - 9:45PM;

Sundays: 10:30AM -1:00PM; Tuesdays: 6:00PM-8:00PM

**Full Time School [Pilot Program] Schedule:** Monday - Friday: 8:00AM - 2:30PM

Lunch Recess: 12:30PM - 1:15PM

**Hedaya Taekwondo:** Wednesdays: 4:30PM - 6:30PM (First 40 min for 6-9 yr. olds); Sundays: 1:30PM - 3:30PM (First 40 min for 6-9 yr. olds)

**Hedaya Soccer:** Saturdays 3:00PM at Brookfield Community Center

on 100 Pocono Rd, Brookfield CT (only if T above

50F - please check w Br Khalid)

**Boys Basketball:** Sundays after 'Br John's Breakfast at Masjid'

(Half-Court use pending tree stump and debris removal at Center,

Only if T above 50F- please check with Br Nureddine)

**Sisters Youth Group:** Sundays after Duhr at Center, every 2 weeks

**Newsletter Youth Group:** Fridays 5:45PM

"...set up Regular Prayers: For such prayers are enjoined on believers at stated times." *Qur'an* 4:103

The Prophet (PBUH) said, "If people knew the reward in praying Fajr and Isha in congregation, they would go to the mosque even if they had to crawl." [Bukhari & Muslim]



The Hedaya Newsletter



Hedaya at CAIR-CT 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet, Cromwell CT - Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2012  
 With Sh Siraj Wahhaj, Br Nihad Awad and Br Mongi Dhaoudi

Narrated 'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her): Allah's Apostle, peace be upon him, said, "Do good deeds properly, sincerely and moderately and know that your deeds will not make you enter Paradise, and that the most beloved deed to Allah's is the most regular and constant even though it were little." [Bukhari]



**Construction work on the 14000+ Sq Ft Masjid (West) Building at the Hedaya Center to begin, inshaAllah**

Sixteen ft high cathedral ceilings with skylights, a 32' diameter dome covering a 300+ Sq ft semi-circle Rotunda extending out in the front of the Building, a 1500+ Sq Ft Apartment for a resident Imam and his family and a Gas powered 94% efficient central Heating - are the highlights of the Masjid (West) Building. Building to include a 2,500 Sq ft masjid space with a 1000 Sq ft Mezzanine level for Sisters, 4000 Sq ft basement, 2000 Sq ft Library, 2000 Sq ft auditorium, Commercial Kitchen, Cafeteria, Utility rooms, breezeways and Lobby

Please donate generously to complete the much needed Masjid Building and peripheral work at the property including parking, pond and stream dredging etc. Estimates on completing the construction exceed \$1.7M. **All donations are Tax Exempt. Please make check payable to 'MSGD' or 'Al Hedaya Islamic Center'** and either hand it to Br John or mail it to the Address in the top left corner of this page, inshaAllah. You can also donate online at our website: [msgdanbury.org](http://msgdanbury.org) inshaAllah.

"The parable of those who spend their substance in the way of Allah is that of a grain of corn: it groweth seven ears, and each ear Hath a hundred grains. Allah giveth manifold increase to whom He pleaseth: And Allah careth for all and He knoweth all things" *Qur'an* 2:261

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers." *Qur'an* 34:39

