



THE MAJLIS

2023

annual report

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Alhamdulillah 2023 has been a year of tremendous growth for us at The Majlis. When we started back in 2017 we slowly built up momentum leading to our independent space in 2019. The pandemic put a halt on that momentum and in the years afterwards we have been working towards building up again. Alhamdulillah, this year feels like it was an important year for us in that regard.

We have been able to be consistent in our regular programming, growing and nurturing our committed community members, while also providing occasional bigger programs for added enrichment. We had some great qiyams at local masjid in Ramadan, another wonderful ladies retreat, and another family retreat.

This year we also had an umrah trip, our first since 2019 which was really great. Alhamdulillah about 60 people joined us from our local community and other places and we had a beautiful trip to the sacred places, even being met by our esteemed teacher and advisor, Shaykh Muhammad Haydara on our first day in Medinah.

We also welcomed this year Shereen Youssef as our Executive Director. What began as an interim role slowly developed into a fuller position. While she is still serving in a part-time capacity, the support and expertise that she has brought to the organization and its management has been extremely helpful for us as we continue to grow.

Finally, this year we launched The Majlis Seminary with our first offering, The Anas ibn Malik Community Servants program. It is a unique, two-year online program that is self-paced with quizzes and chat group support. The goal of the program is to provide students with a basic level of knowledge of the tradition that enables them to serve in various capacities in their communities, such as board members and volunteers. We have had great engagement so far and hope that this program will be a source of benefit for many in the future.

We have always tried to grow at The Majlis prioritizing staff and making staffing and space decisions accordingly. We are grateful for your support in the past and going into the future and are hopeful about what we will be able to do together in the years to come. And all praise is due to Allah, in the beginning and in the end.

At Your Service,
Shaykh Jamaal Diwan and Shaykha Muslema Purmul



OUR MISSION

The Majlis seeks to develop and nurture safe community spaces where people can learn and live Islam, based on the traditional sources of understanding the faith, while acknowledging the particular challenges of our context. Our efforts are focused around religious education, spiritual refinement, love and service.

THE MAJLIS IMPACT IN 2023

by the numbers



Pastoral Care Sessions
600+ sessions



Online Content
3,000+ monthly views



Summer & Ladies Retreat
375+ attendees



Food Distribution
8,550 people

2023

programming at the majlis

Sunday Programs OC:

- The Prophet as a Teacher
- Treatise for the Seekers of Guidance of Imam Al-Muhasibi
- Understanding Islam: The Preservation of the Qur'an
- Understanding Islam: The Significance of Miracles
- Understanding Islam: Isra wa-I-Mi'raj
- Exemplars for Our Time

Sunday Programs SD:

- Children's Storytime and Song
- The Art of Community: Adab Al Suhbah
- Understanding the Sacred Law
- Isra and Miraj Reading - Virtues of al-Aqsa
- Futuwwah: The Muslim Honor Code



Tuesday Programs:

- Journey Through the Quran
 - Continued Juz Qad Sami Allah
 - Surah Al-Mumtahanah
 - Surah As-Saf
 - Surah Al-Jumu'ah
 - Surah Al-Munafiqun
 - Surah At-Taghabun
 - Surah Al-Talaq
 - Surah Al-Tahrim

Wednesday Programs:

- The Life of The Prophet Muhammad (SAW)



Thursday Programs:

- Believing Together (OC)
- Ladies Circle (SD)

Ramadan:

- The Objectives of Fasting
- In the Company of the Angels
- Reflections from Surah Yasin
- Tafsir of Surah Luqman
- In Pursuit of Divine Mercy ISCN Qiyam
- The Season of Spiritual Renewal ISOC Qiyam
- Making the Days Count IIOC Qiyam
- Welcoming the Gifts of Ramadan MCC SD Qiyam



The Majlis OC

This is the 8th year we have been serving in the Orange County region. Alhamdulillah, we have been able to provide weekly programs taught by Shayha Muslema Purmul, Shaykh Fouad Elgohari and Shaykh Jamaal Diwan. Many special events and workshops have also been hosted at our Orange location. We are blessed to see The Majlis community grow in this region and look forward to serve our community at a bigger capacity insha'Allah.



The Majlis San Diego

Alhamdulillah, The Majlis now provides in-person programs in San Diego every Sunday. This year included many classes taught by Shaykh Jamaal Diwan titled “The Art of Community: Adab Al-Suhbah” “Understanding the Sacred Law” and “Futuwwah: The Muslim Honor Code”. Additional program include a children’s class of story time, crafts, and songs hosted by Shaykha Muslema Purmul and the San Diego volunteer team. Shaykha Muslema also taught her bi-weekly ladies’ circle sessions in San Diego and online. Our hope is to continue our San Diego programs as we cultivate and grow the community in the region insha’Allah.



Serving The Nobles

Serving the nobles is a program that provides around 200 meals a month. This beneficial food distribution has been successfully implemented with the support of our local partner, Sabil. Alhamdulillah, every third Sunday of the month, The Majlis volunteers pass hot food and groceries to many local families in need. This year, alhamdulliah we have been able to distribute over 8,500 hot meals.



ladies' study circle



Carrying the momentum from the Ladies' Circle established in 2020 and continuing into 2023 for tazkiah, aqidah, and fiqh, this year's focus was knowing Allah and knowing ourselves, taught by Shaykha Muslema Purmul. While the ladies' circle was previously exclusively online and garnered worldwide attendance, this year's circle took place bi-weekly in person in San Diego and maintained the virtual component for those not local. The circle examined a specific attribute and name of Allah each session with special spiritual reflections to help attendees better know themselves and thus work toward our purpose of better knowing God. In addition to studying the Beautiful Names and Attributes of God, this year, the Ladies Circle also started and finished Imam Ghazali's work, *The Beginning of Guidance*. We plan to continue the ladies' circle in the new year inshaAllah.

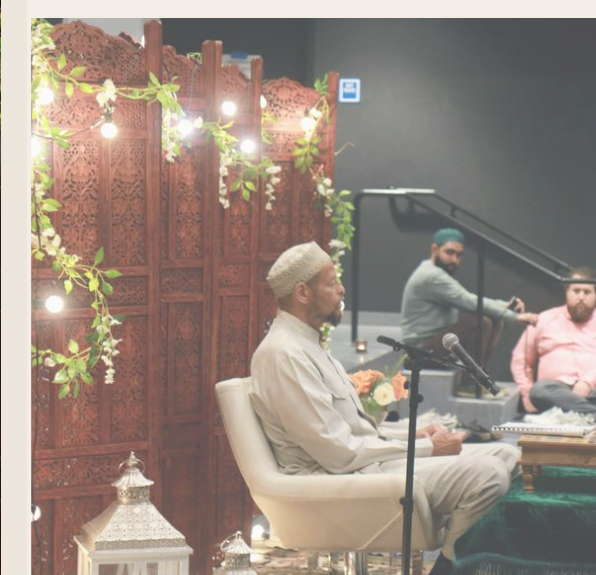
Special Events

Special Guests in 2023:

- Renewing Our Oaths With Allah: **Reehab Ramadan**
- The Majlis Annual Banquet: **Dr. Altaf Hussain**
- Believing Together: **Dr Omar Mahmood**
- Ladies Retreat: **Dr. Aicha Sebaa, Dr. Mona Hassan, Rehab Ramadan, Ch. Sondos Kholaki, Yasmine Elhady**
- In The Shade of Aphorisms: **Sh Ahmad Sa'd Al-Azhari**
- Coffee and Tea with Brother Ali: **Brother Ali**
- Spiritual Wayfaring: The Journey to The King of kings: **Imam Zaid Shakir**
- Summer Family Reset: **Imam Honest Qashidi**

Special Events in 2023:

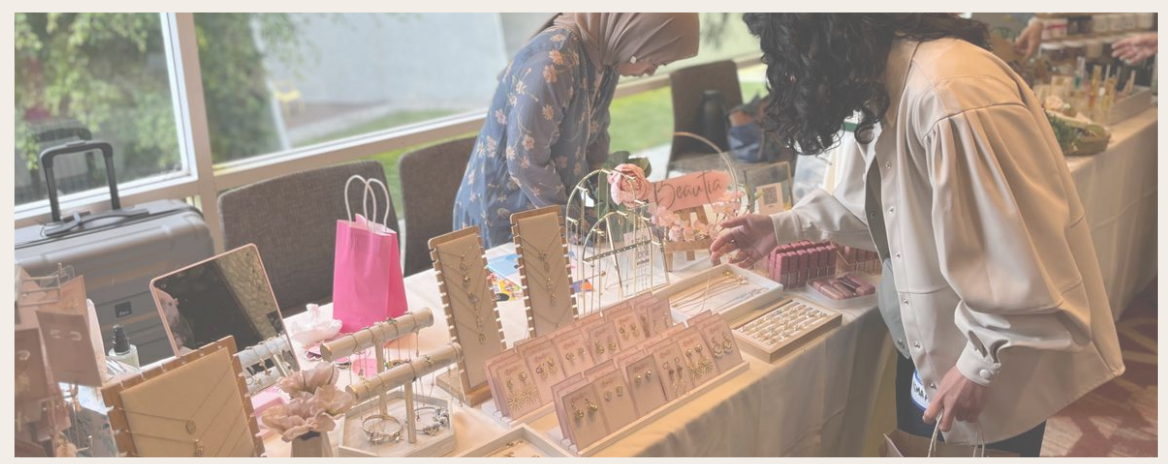
- Al Firduas Ensemble
- Virtues of Dhul Hijjah
- Day of Arafah Program
- Celebrating the Beloved
- Dua Al-Nasiri
- Palestine: Humanity's Moral Conscience
- Fall Umrah



Ladies Retreat

Nourishing the Mind, Body, and Soul

In May 2023, The Majlis had the unique opportunity to host its second annual full-day retreat for ladies titled “Nourishing the Mind, Body, and Soul” with the goal of providing rest, bonding, and spiritual growth to the women of our community who in turn rejuvenate their communities. Local and international speakers included Shaykha Muslema Purmul, Dr. Mona Hasan, Reehab Ramadan, Chaplain Sondos Kholaki, Dr. Aicha Sebaa and Yasmin Elhady. Over 220 women attended the program, which included meals, a beautiful bazaar with over 10 vendors, dhikr and prayer, and sessions on healing the spiritual heart, reviving the sunnah of compassion, connecting to God’s Beautiful Attributes, and well being and nutrition. Set at the Hotel Maya Resort in Long Beach California, sessions took place against a stunning backdrop of palm trees, the ocean and the infamous California landmark The Queen Mary. This one of a kind event was one that made a difference to the women serving our community as they nourished their hearts with a meaningful experience.



Summer Family Reset

Refreshing the fundamentals of faith, practice, and spiritual beauty



The Majlis Summer Family Reset was held August 18th through the 19th at the Pali Retreat Center. Our retreat was cut one day short due to unforeseen weather circumstances namely Hurricane Hillary, but the time we spent with our community was well worth it. Alhamdulillah this year we had just over 120 community members join us for this weekend. This year's retreat focused on getting back to the fundamentals of faith. Our sessions led by Special Guest Imam Honest Qashidi and our Majlis Teachers: Shaykh Fouad Elgohari, Shaykha Muslema Purmul and Shaykh Jamaal Diwan. Topics of each session were based around reconnecting to the basics of our faith: prayer and basic fiqh in each Madhab. In addition to this main program we also had an amazing Children's Program that took place during each main session. Our children's program was provided with the help and guidance from staff and volunteers from the Art and Wilderness Institute.

The Majlis Seminary

Anas ibn Malik Community Servants Program

As part of further developing the overall mission of The Majlis and taking it to as many people as possible, this year we officially launched a two-year seminary program called the Anas ibn Malik Community Servants Program. The goal of the program is to provide a rigorous, reliable Islamic Studies program to the public in a way that is easy for them to be part of and enables them to serve in their respective communities. This program will be teaching a total of 32 courses over the course of the next two years. All content is available online for students to access at their own pace and convenience and further support is provided through dedicated chat groups and conference calls. Alhamdulillah our first cohort was a great success with over 100 students enrolled around the country and the world.



IN THE WORDS OF OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

The Majlis holds a special place in my heart for various reasons, foremost among them being its exceptional seminary program. The opportunity it provides to aspiring Muslim students eager to delve into Islamic studies is unparalleled. The depth and quality of education foster a profound understanding of the faith. Equally captivating is the sense of belonging within the community. The closeness among teachers and attendees creates an environment where mutual respect and love flourish. This companionship not only enhances the learning experience but also nurtures a supportive network that extends beyond the classroom. The Majlis isn't just an educational institution; it's a family united by a shared passion for Islamic knowledge. Being a part of this community is enriching, and the bonds forged here go beyond academics, embodying the true spirit of fellowship and devotion to a common purpose.

~Ömer A.

I am grateful that the Majlis has been a constant in my life since its inception. There has been so much spiritual growth in this space at the hands of this powerful community and the guidance of our Majlis teachers. Majlis affords one the opportunity and space to have friends/community and teachers, who through time, witness your own growth journey and support you in the most poetic and beautiful way with kindness, care and knowledge. In addition to the regular weekly classes and special events, we now have the opportunity to expand our knowledge and grow more with the inaugural Anas ibn Malik Community Servant Seminary program. Despite the chaotic nature of life, Majlis continues to be a place of comfort, learning, community, intimate connections, and a sense of stability that I am grateful for alhamdulillah.

~Ayan J.



IN THE WORDS OF OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

Words fall short when trying to describe the Majlis. It is a location that brings back beautiful memories of beautiful companionship and community learning. It's a space where people can feel safe and comfortable to live and learn about their deen and connecting with Allah. It is a community of teachers, volunteers and attendees who truly feel and show up like family. It's a home away from home for so many of us and it's the place where we've build relationships and connections that we pray will stay with us for our lifetimes and into the hereafter.

~**Mae A.**

From the very first moment I walked into The Majlis, I knew something was different. I couldn't put my finger on it, but I never felt so welcome, seen, and accepted by both the teachers and many volunteers. It's why I kept coming back and four years later, still do. It's now almost impossible to leave a weekly gathering without having at least two people offer to make a plate to go if they notice I haven't eaten. Whether it be a weekly class, special event, or seminary program, a great deal of thought, care, and love is poured into each one. When it comes to hosting an event, there is a fine line between extravagance and beauty. The Majlis has mastered it. I now consider many at The Majlis family, which is what made it easier to be away from mine for a week while halfway across the world, doing Umrah with The Majlis, Alhamdulillah. I didn't know it back then, but I had been looking for The Majlis my whole life. I don't know where I'd be without it and pray I never have to find out.

~**Kamran K.**



who we are

Board

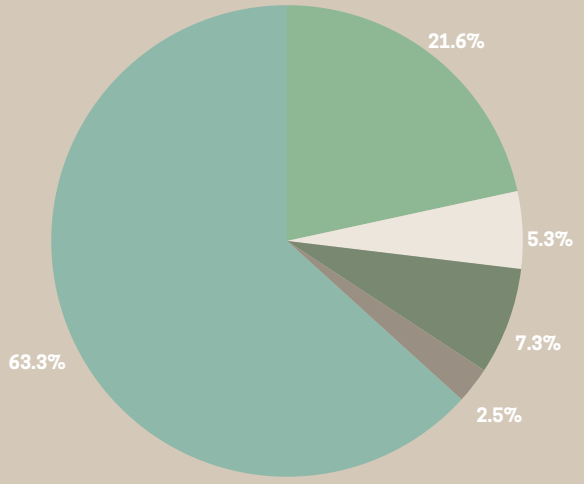
- Shaykh Jamaal Diwan
- Shaykha Muslema Purmul
- Hadeer Soliman
- Metra Azar-Salem
- Siraj Mowjood
- Faisal Ghias

Staff

- Shaykh Jamaal Diwan, Co-founder & Resident Scholar
- Shaykha Muslema Purmul, Co-founder & Religious Director
- Shaykh Fouad Elgohari, Instructor & theology Specialist
- Chaplain Sondos Kholaki, Chaplain
- Shereen Youssef, Executive Director
- Marcus Castile, Assistant Director

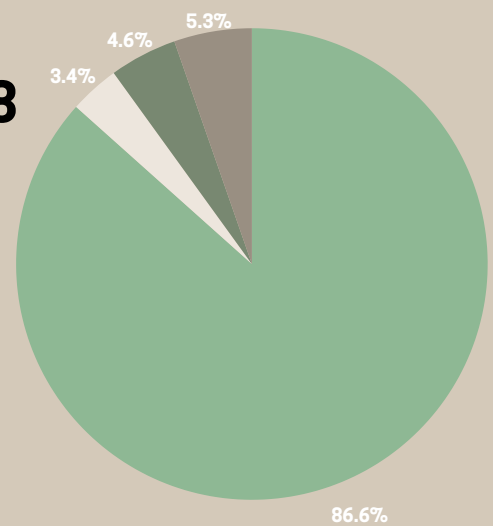


financial information



- One-time donors & other Income: ~ \$338,788**
- Monthly donors: ~ \$115,695**
- Events - \$28,370**
- Seminary - \$39,298**
- Zakah - \$13,363**

Total income = \$535,514




- Programming: ~\$430,135**
- Food for Programs: ~\$17,000**
- Food Distributions: ~\$23,000**
- Facilities: ~\$26,500**

Total Expense = \$496,635

The Hospitality Committee

Service has been an integral aspect of what we do at The Majlis. This year our focus is to be intentional in our efforts with the people who serve our community. Alhamdulillah, we have been able to engage over 35 volunteers who serve on a weekly basis. Part of our intention is to continue to cultivate the strengths of our team and provide them with tools needed by spending more time with our teachers and in suhba gatherings.





religious education

spiritual refinement

love & service



THE MAJLIS



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