



HOUNSLOW FRIENDS OF FAITH

Newsletter ~ April / May 2022

Keeping you up to date with Interfaith and Community News

A joint HFOF / Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust Iftar

held on Thursday 7th April 7 – 9pm in Spring Grove House,
West Thames College in Isleworth.

Thanks to the generosity of West Thames College the Joint Iftar was held in the beautiful Music Room and Winter Garden Room of the college. About fifty people representing most of the faith communities in the borough, West London Humanists, Hounslow Council and the Police attended the meeting. Charanjit AjitSingh, Chair of Hounslow Friends of Faith and Asma Bilal of Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust were co-hosts and introduced the speakers see pictures below:



Michael Michaelides
West Thames College

Prof Rizana Latif
Al-Mustafa W.Trust

Shafiq Rehman
Hounslow Jamia Masjid

Maqsood Ahmed OBE
Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust

Michael Michaelides, Executive Director of Resources and Student Experience at West Thames College welcomed everyone and gave a brief introduction about the college which is a diverse community of 6,000 students. Then Rizana Latif, a founder Trustee of Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust, explained that the Ramadan fast month reminds Muslims to be 'God conscious' and become more responsible human beings which includes giving charity to those in need. Shafiq Rehman, a Trustee of HFOF, brought greetings from Hounslow Jamia Masjid where he is General Secretary. He said that Ramadan fasting is not just about abstaining from food and drink but about purifying the heart in order to come closer to God and that all people are united by a common humanity and must work together for justice. Maqsood Ahmed, Director of UK projects for Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust, spoke about the work of the charity. Projects in the UK include help for the homeless, distribution of unsold food to the needy and a resettlement programme for female Muslim prisoners released from Bronzefield Prison. Some of the Trust's many international projects mentioned were cataract operations performed around the world, a specialist eye hospital in Lahore in Pakistan, provision of water bore holes and pumps in desert areas and helping to build mosques with solar panels which in many ways give help to poor communities.

At sunset the Muslims present had the opportunity to say prayers in the Banks Room and break their fast. Then everyone enjoyed a delicious plant based meal, courtesy of Al-Mustafa Trust, provided by caterers Cha Cha'z of Feltham.

Iftar Organisers and Caterers in the Winter Garden Room



Future HFOF Events and Activities

As Covid restrictions are easing *Hounslow Friends of Faith* committee is hoping to organise a **'Walk of Peace and Friendship'** this summer.

There are also two **Interfaith Environmental Projects in the planning stage**. Firstly it is hoped some planting will take place outside Hounslow West Underground Station and secondly a sensory garden laid out within Lampton Park. Thanks to those who have already volunteered their help; once the projects get underway they will be contacted. It is hoped the ongoing upkeep of these projects can be truly interfaith.

Remembering the many areas of conflict in the world, including in Ukraine, here is a Jain prayer for peace

Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel
preached by all the Enlightened Ones.

The Lord has preached that equanimity is the Dharma.
Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me.
Unto all have I amity, and unto none enmity.

Know that violence is the root cause of all miseries in the world.
Violence, in fact, is the knot of bondage.

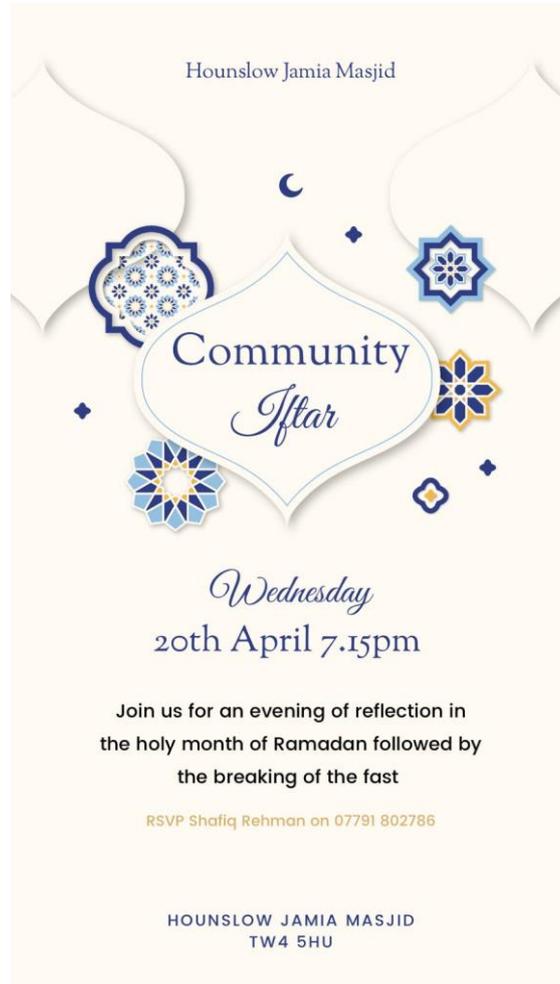
'Do not injure any living being.'

This is the eternal, perennial, and unalterable way of spiritual life.

A weapon, howsoever powerful it may be, can always be superseded by a superior one;
But no weapon can, however, be superior to nonviolence and love.

**You are invited to join a Community Iftar
at Hounslow Jamia Masjid, Wellington Road, Hounslow, TW4 5HU
on Wednesday 20th April at 7.15pm**

RSVP to Shafiq Rehman on 07791 802786



Klezmer Music Event Sunday 8th May at 3pm

You are invited to a Klezmer music event at Ealing Liberal Synagogue
Lynton Avenue, London, W13 0EB

(klezmer music is derived from and built upon eastern European music in
the Jewish tradition)

Ilana Cravitz, an internationally famous *klezmer* violinist and educator,
will give an illustrated talk, with both live music and recordings.

Bagels and tea will be provided.

Tickets £10

Free admission for children and students.

To reserve your place, and for further information
please email elsculturalevents@gmail.com

Advertise your Place of Worship on Hounslow Connect

Hounslow Connect is the Council's new online information, advice and guidance hub and is the digital platform of our new Community Solutions approach.

Hounslow Connect brings together information about services provided by Hounslow Council, our voluntary and community groups and our health partners, so that residents can easily find what is right for you, when and where you need it.

You can find Hounslow Connect here: www.hounslowconnect.com

We are now inviting our local charities, voluntary and community groups to register onto Hounslow Connect, so everyone can see what you are providing and how to contact you. This is free of charge and you will have your own personalised page on the platform, which you can edit and change whenever you want.

To register on Hounslow Connect please email hounslowconnect@hounslow.gov.uk and we will guide you through the simple sign-up process.

Remember me...

A COVID-19 memorial
for all faiths and none.

To add a name visit
www.rememberme2020.uk

 **St PAUL'S**
CATHEDRAL



Many major faiths are celebrating important festivals around the same time this year, a truly holy period ~ blessings and good wishes to all who will be observing days of special significance:

April

2nd **Muslim: Ramadan** month of fasting begins

2nd - 10th **Hindu: Chaitra Navratri** is a festival dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga and her nine forms through the nine days.

10th **Hindu: Rama Navami** - the birthday of Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu, is celebrated at noon in the aarti ceremony, performed in front of a doll or of a picture depicting Rama swinging in a cradle.

April

10th – 16th **Christian: Holy Week** the most solemn week of the Christian year, in which Christians recall the events of the week in which Jesus was crucified, which happened on what is called Good Friday.

13th – 15th **Buddhist: Songkran** - New Year's Day festival

14th **Sikh: Vaisakhi/Baisakhi** is a Harvest Festival and New Year celebration. Sikhs remember the founding of the Order of the Khalsa in 1699 by the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh.

16th – 17th **Hindu: Hanuman Jayanti** This Hindu festival recalls the birth of Lord Rama's supreme devotee, the monkey-headed Hanuman, whose feats figure in the Ramayana epic.

16th – 23rd **Jewish: Passover / Pesach** An eight day festival when Jews commemorate the Exodus from their slavery in Egypt. The *Seder* meal is held in each family's home at the beginning of the festival, when the story of their deliverance is recounted. *Matzah* (unleavened bread) is eaten throughout the festival.

17th **Christian:** Easter Day is the most important festival of the Christian year, as it is when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Many Easter traditions, such as the giving of chocolate Easter eggs symbolise the gift of new life.

20th April -1st May **Baha'i: Ridvan** Baha'u'llah declared himself the Promised One. The time Baha'is elect their local, national and international governing bodies.

21st **Zoroastrian: Adar Mah Parab** celebration of the birthday of fire. Zoroastrians visit the fire temple to give thanks for its warmth and light.

21st **Hindu: Rama Navami** -the birthday of Rama

23rd **St Georges Day** – Patron saint of England

24th **Orthodox Christian / Rastafarian: Pascha / Easter**

25th **Jain: Mahavir Jayanti** The birthday of the last Tirthankara, or great teacher and model of the Jainas.

May

1st **Muslim:** Ramadan ends.

2nd **Muslim: Eid-ul-Fitr** - once the fast of Ramadan has been completed it is a time for making gifts to the poor and families gathering together. The community assembles for Eid prayer and a sermon at its mosques.

May

- 16th** **Buddhist: Vesakha Puja/ Buddha Day** the birth, enlightenment and final passing away of Gautama Buddha are celebrated.
- 19th** **Jewish: Lag B'Omer** The *Omer lasts* 49 days from Pesach to Shavuot. A time of sadness, it is relieved on the 33rd day. It recalls the end of a plague in Roman times. Weddings often take place on this day, since they are not usually permitted during the rest of the *Omer period*.
- 23rd** **Zoroastrian: Zaratosht no-Diso** is a commemoration of the death of the prophet Zoroaster.
- 23rd** **Baha'i: Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab.** The *Bab* heralded the arrival of Baha'ullah and was co-founder of the Baha'i faith. He first declared his mission in Persia in 1844. He inaugurated the Baha'i calendar which numbers itself from the year of this declaration.
- 26th** **Christian: Ascension Day** the returning of the risen Jesus into heaven
- 29th** **Baha'i: Anniversary of the Ascension of** commemorating the death of Baha'u'llah at Bahji, near Acre, in 1892.

June

- 2nd** **Ascension Day (40th day after Easter) Christian (Orthodox Churches)** This day commemorates the last earthly appearance of the Risen Christ, who, according to Christian belief, ascended into heaven in the presence of many witnesses.
- 5th** **Christian: Pentecost** - celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- 5/6th** **Jewish: Shavuot / The Feast of Weeks** - Seven weeks after Pesach, Shavuot celebrates the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai and the early harvest season in Israel. Summer flowers and dairy foods abound.
- 13th** **Christian: Pentecost (Orthodox Churches)** celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- 16th** **Sikh: Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (1606)** The fifth Guru was executed on the orders of the Moghul Emperor, Jehangir, for refusing to pay a fine arising from a charge of treason. Guru Arjan made the first compilation of the Sikh Scriptures, called the *Adi Granth*, and supervised the completion of what is now the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

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Deadline for items for the June/July newsletter is **25th May**. If you are receiving this newsletter as the named person from an organisation **please circulate the newsletter within your group** and do let me know if there is someone else who would wish to receive a copy.