

Hounslow Friends of Faith Newsletter May 2024

During the month of Ramadan, members of HFOF were invited to a number of Iftar events, and we organised our own event in partnership with Al Mustafa Welfare Trust and West Thames College

HFOF'S THIRD INTERFAITH IFTAR AT WEST THAMES COLLEGE 22 MARCH 2024

Al Mustafa Welfare Trust and Hounslow Friends of Faith joined hands to host an Interfaith Iftar at West Thames College on March 22, 2024. Approximately 100 individuals representing diverse religious backgrounds congregated to commemorate the Holy Month of Ramadan. Distinguished guests, including Deputy Lieutenant Rosi Prescott, Mayor of Hounslow Cllr Afzaal Kyani, Council Leader Cllr Shantanu Rajawant, Tracy Aust, Principal and Chief Executive of West Thames College, and leaders from various faith communities, graced the occasion. Imam Sheikh Ammar delivered a poignant speech on the significance of Ramadan, while Sadaf Javed, Managing Director of Al Mustafa Welfare Trust, shed light on the organisation's impactful initiatives.

A student from West Thames College who was a volunteer steward, was invited to give an impromptu few words about his experience as a student at WTC. He described, very eloquently, the positive learning support he had received, as a newcomer to this country, and how he had been helped to integrate into college life.

The event was presided over by Charanjit Ajit Singh, Chairperson of Hounslow Friends of Faith, and coordinated by Shamama Lateef, a Trustee of Al Mustafa Welfare Trust. Together, the attendees shared in the observance of Iftar with the sharing of a plant based meal, fostering unity and



understanding across religious lines.
Prescott, Deputy Lieutenant

Rosi



Mayor of Hounslow

IFTAR EVENT AT BRENT CENTRAL MOSQUE 14th March

At the invitation of Mustafa Field OBE, the Director of Faiths Forum For London , Charanjit and Ajit Singh attended the interfaith meeting and Iftar event that was organized in collaboration with the Together Coalition (<https://together.org.uk/>)

The Iftar event was attended by a diverse group of esteemed guests, activists, and faith leaders-

the New Zealand High Commissioner, MPs, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party Angela Rayner, Baroness Warsi, Jamima Khan, Archbishop Angleos, Rabbis, Christian, Muslim and Sikh leaders. This event held particular significance as it coincided with the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Christchurch Terror attack, which tragically claimed the lives of 51 individuals, and the UN Day for Combating Islamophobia. This event was a joint effort between the Together Coalition and the Faiths Forum for London.

The evening consisted of an Iftar reception accompanied by a series of brief speeches addressing the pressing issue of anti-Muslim hate, highlighting the invaluable contributions of British Muslim communities, and emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts across societal divides. Those who attended the event at the Central Mosque of Brent (41 Station Parade, London NW2 4PU), found it deeply moving and rewarding, especially the offering of a flower for each of the lives lost in New Zealand and Finsbury Park.



UK ISLAMIC MISSION held an Iftar on 5th April 2024 at the Heston Community Centre. Mr Waqar Ahmed compered the event and Charanjit spoke about working together to maintain harmonious relations in the diverse Hounslow community

Brentford Football club Iftar

Zaheer Khan and Debbie Brenner attended Brentford FC's first multifaith Iftar at the Gtech Stadium. It was good to see how the Club is embracing the diversity of its players, club members and the local community. The guests at the event were mainly local families. The event was held in the members room overlooking the pitch. We were invited to sit in the stadium where prayers were recited, and we were addressed by the Club's Chair. Unfortunately the footballers weren't available as they were preparing for an away match the following day!

Peace Symposium at Baitul Futuh Mosque 9th March 2024

We were delighted to attend the national peace symposium at the landmark headquarters building at the Baitul Futuh Mosque in London – the largest mosque in Western Europe.

This flagship event organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, now in its 18th year, regularly attracts more than 500 guests from different religious, civic, academic, charitable and community organisations, parliamentarians and members of the diplomatic corps.

Speakers talked about the recent events which highlight the perilous state of the world. Nationalism and injustice are fuelling conflict, poverty, and inequality and are creating humanitarian crises across the globe.

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Caliph of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, awarded the International Peace Prize to the leaders of two charitable organisations, who had in their own unique ways, worked for sustainable peace. One of the recipients said, 'Power of love can overcome the love of power, love is alive, hope is alive and power of humanity is strong.' His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad also delivered the keynote address about building sustainable peace based on his own experience and the Quranic teaching about peace.

This was followed by a sumptuous dinner enjoyed by the guests.

On 28th April, Ahmadiyya Women's group celebrated Interfaith EID with invited women from different faith backgrounds at their Feltham Mosque. Charanjit represented HFOF.

BAPS 14th International Women's Day celebrations on 15th March 2024 at 7 pm Lampton School, Hounslow.

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha is a Hindu organisation dedicated to global harmony.

This year's theme was "Celebrating Women: Uplifting Communities." HFOF were invited to this women's only event and Charanjit was asked to be a panellist at this well attended evening .

Over the years, the Women's Forum (UK & Europe) of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, have hosted memorable conferences and seminars to celebrate International Women's Day.

The event led by a panel of women explored their experiences of practising positivity, extending kindness and taking proactive steps to uplift our communities; thereby creating a ripple effect of change. The message shared was that each and every one of us can be advocates for harmony and take inspiration from women past and present who have gone above and beyond to better our community, at a time when the news of conflict dominates the media



Rama Navmi celebrations

Charanjit and Ajit Singh also participated in Rama Navmi celebrations organised by BAPS Swami Narayan Organisation West London at Navnat Centre Hayes on 14th April 2024. It is a popular event attended by thousands of disciples and guests from other faith communities.

HOLY WEEK AT HESTON CHURCHES

A busy week of Christian observances for Holy Week at Heston churches included the annual interdenominational Walk of Witness on Good Friday 29th March . A large wooden cross was carried at the head of the walk along Heston Road by approximately 160 clergy and church members beginning at Heston Methodist Church with prayers and gospel readings which continued at St Leonard's Parish Church and finishing at Our Lady Queen of the Apostles where walkers also



enjoyed hot cross buns .

Osterley library garden project

The bulbs we planted in the garden last year returned to give a lovely cheery display in the Spring. The raised planters have now been filled and are thriving. One of the beds is dedicated to scented plants. It is pleasing to hear the positive comments from passers-by and library staff and users. We are in process of planning a celebratory garden event for local families and library users.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual walk of Peace and Friendship 22nd June

Insert poster

JEWISH LIVING EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION

To be held at Chiswick Town Hall from Monday 17th June-Thurs 27th June.

HFOF Trustees are invited to the launch on Mon 17th June (see invitation below) and to an Open evening on Thursday 27th June 4-5.30pm

**BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS**
ADVOCACY | DEMOCRACY | COMMUNITY

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

JEWISH LIVING 
TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH JEWISH LIFE

EXHIBITION
@ Chiswick Town Hall

Launch event
Monday 17th June
2024, 6-7.15pm

PLEASE HELP US TO CELEBRATE
HOUNSLOW COUNCIL HOSTING THE
BOARD OF DEPUTIES' TRAVELLING
EXHIBITION ABOUT JEWISH LIFE,
BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS -
A RECENTLY REVAMPED
EXHIBIT OF PHOTOS,
INFORMATION AND
HANDLING OBJECTS .

Rsvp:
anna.silver@bod.org.uk

WHAT DO JEWISH PEOPLE LOOK LIKE?

Dates of religious holidays for June and July

To be added

