In these conversations hosted by MCN, esteemed leaders in the Muslim community enlightened audiences from all backgrounds on various topics including black Muslim experiences, the rights of Muslim women, the role of Jesus in Islam, the revelation of the Qu'ran, and the history of enslaved African Muslims.
Dr. Matthew Schumann is a husband, father and historian who views Islamic history as a vital source of inspiration and guidance for today's world. He earned his PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University in 2020 for his study of the Nasiriyya Brotherhood, a Muslim spiritual community that flourished across North Africa in the 17th and 18th centuries. Outside of his academic scholarship, Matthew has spent time studying Islam in traditional settings and serving as a volunteer in Muslim community organizations, including Nakhlah Institute, Princeton University's Muslim Life Program and Zawiyah Foundation in Vancouver, British Columbia. Matthew has also served as a historical consultant for children's and young adult authors engaging with Islam and Islamic history. He currently lives in Salt Lake City, UT, with his wife and children, where he works as a bus operator for the Utah Transit Authority.
"Every human being comes from God, every human being is a descendant of Adam. God wants us to see the world and his creation first from that sense of unity... Part of that unity is believing in all of the prophets and messengers. As a Muslim I believe in Jesus as a prophet, in Abraham, in Adam, in Noah, and all of these prophets named in the Qu'ran and the Bible because I recognize they all came from the same truth - from God. That is the same truth the Prophet Muhammed came with."
DIVERSITY EDUCATION SPEAKER SERIES

PERSPECTIVES ON THE BLACK MUSLIM EXPERIENCE

FEB 19, 2021

MCN
Muslim Community Network
Bakary Sillah is a young Gambian American. When he was thirteen he set out to Gambia to gain Islamic knowledge. He memorized the Quran back in 2012 at the age of 16 and has made it his mission to continue to understand the Quran as well as teach its message to others. He is the Events Coordinator for Seekers of Knowledge and Unite My Ummah, two small Islamic youth groups based in the south Bronx that try to spiritually rehabilitate the community through teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

Sister Jamilah Abdul-Majid is the leader of the women's group "Sisters' Circle", where women to discuss and understand Islamic texts, history, and beliefs. The mission of the group is to help implement submission to God's will and the messages of faith into daily life. Islam is the central focus of Sister Jamilah's existence, and she believes it is her obligation to support anyone who wants to make it theirs.
FEATURED SPEAKERS

Zainab Bari is a Bronx native who aims to work towards bettering her community by all possible means. She currently serves as a program director and mentor at Muslimah Youth.

Gareth Bryant has been a chaplain since 2014, focusing on mental-health awareness.
**Na’il Salahu-Din** is a husband, an educator, a healer, and a sociologist. Na’il has been under the mentorship of various Imams and Shayukhs from all over the world. Na’il has been a facilitator of various interfaith initiatives specifically focused on youth leadership, communal unity, divine masculinity, and character according to the prophetic tradition. He is currently a 2nd year student at Bayan Institute Islamic Seminary school partnered with the acclaimed Chicago Theological Seminary.

**Imam Ammar Abdul Rahman** is the deputy Imam at Masjid Al-Haram in the Bronx, and also a teacher at Success Academy. He works to educate and empower the youth to achieve success both in this life and the next.
"There’s still a lot more that has to be done and more conversations that need to be held in regards to our experiences as Black Muslims and the racial injustices we encounter on a daily."

"Just love the event - I'm a young person learning a lot from this event."

"The points brought up were informative and beneficial."

1.4K reached on Facebook
HISTORY OF ENSLAVED AFRICAN MUSLIMS WITH DR. SYLVIANE DIOUF

FEB 19TH, 2021
Sylviane A. Diouf, PhD is an award-winning historian of the African Diaspora and a curator. She is a Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice at Brown University, and a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience Maison des Esclaves project on Goree Island, Senegal.

In 2015, she was the keynote speaker addressing the United Nations General Assembly on the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

A recipient of the Rosa Parks Award, the Dr. Betty Shabazz Achievement Award, and the Pen and Brush Achievement Award, Diouf was the founding director of the Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of The New York Public Library.
100% of survey respondents reported satisfaction with the event.

"All of this info was profound..

- Attendee
DIVERSITY EDUCATION SPEAKER SERIES

30 RIGHTS OF MUSLIM WOMEN WITH DAISY KHAN

MARCH 24, 2021

MCN
Muslim Community Network
Daisy Khan is an award winning speaker, author, activist, commentator, and the founder of Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE). She is a media commentator and Op-Ed writer on American Muslims, women in Islam and she is recipient of twenty awards and honors for promoting women’s rights and enhancing interfaith relations.

She is the author of two books, the WISE Up report published in collaboration with 72 authors, and her memoir, Born with Wings, depicting her spiritual journey and her pathway to leadership. Born in Kashmir, she spent twenty-five years as an interior architect for various Fortune 500 companies. In 2005, she dedicated herself to full-time community service and building movements for positive change, both in the United States and around the globe.
"The reality now is women are educated, they are interested in their religion, they are spiritually inclined, they are God-centric, they wanna do community service - they [deserve] a full space."

611 REACHED on Facebook

"Women are not an afterthought, they should be considered fifty percent of the congregation. In the US, there is no reason for this not to happen."
DIVERSITY EDUCATION SPEAKER SERIES

THE REVELATION OF THE QURAN WITH SHAYKH IBAD WALI

APRIL 22, 2021

MCN
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Shaykh Ibad Wali is the Executive Director & Resident Scholar of Hillside Islamic Center as well as an ‘Aalim Course Instructor at Darul Uloom New York, specializing in the Islamic Law of Inheritance. He is currently on the Board of Directors for CAIR-NY and on the Interfaith Clergy Advisory Committee of the District Attorney of Nassau County. He is also the Resident Scholar of Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership Council of New York, Founder of Sacred Knowledge Institute, Host on America's Islamic Radio, works with the Halal Food Certification in public schools for NYC Department of Education, is the Boy Scouts of America Charter Organization Representative for Hillside Islamic Center and is engaged in various chaplaincy work and interfaith initiatives across NYC & Long Island.
"The Qu'ran wasn't written down and edited first, it was spoken and recited aloud to an illiterate community. There was no way to backtrack what was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the community absorbed every word he recited and memorized it, sharing these recitations verbatim with each other."

"Surah Fatiha is so significant because it captures the entire message of the Qu'ran, the objective, the cause and effect of Qu'ran, the result of the Qu'ran, the guidance - that is why it is called the mother of the Qu'ran, the essence of the Qu'ran."
PARTICIPANTS TAKEAWAYS

"Thank you for a well organized event with a great and knowledgeable speaker."

411 REACHED on Facebook

"[I received] a simpler and clearer understanding about the revelation of the Quran."
BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE MUSLIM COMMUNITY: SUNNI-SHIA DIALOGUE & PARTNERSHIP

JUNE 9, 2021
Imam Khalid Latif is the University Chaplain for NYU and Executive Director of the Islamic Center at NYU. Under his leadership, ICNYU became the first ever established Muslim student center at an institution of higher education in the US. Imam Latif has also worked tirelessly to foster dialogue with people of other faiths in order to clarify misconceptions and encourage mutual education. His work has brought him to share stages with the likes of Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama, and many grassroot movements and diverse communities throughout the world.
Sheikh Faiyaz Jaffer is the Research Scholar for the Islamic Center at New York University and an Associate Chaplain for the Center of Global & Spiritual Life at NYU. He is also currently a doctoral candidate at NYU Steinhardt’s School of Education, and working on his final project, “A Minority of a Minority: the Shia Muslim Student Experience on Campus.” Sheikh Faiyaz attained an MA degree in Islamic Studies (UK), with a concentration on early Islamic history, after his undergraduate degree from Stony Brook University in Political Science and Religious Studies.
"Thank you for bringing so much clarity and information to what, I believe, is so misunderstood by a lot of people."

- Anonymous Attendee

867 reached on Facebook

100% of surveyed participants were satisfied.