

Newburyport HRC
May 9, 2019

Attendance: Robert Azzi, Tom Getz, Jen Groskin, Ahmer Ibrahim, Margaret McQuillan, and Kat Preftes

Next meeting: June 13th

Meeting called to order @ 7:03 pm.

Guest Speaker: Robert Azzi

Ahmer summarized previous Iftar and introduced Robert.

He has been conducting his program "Ask a Muslim Anything" for about 3 years, mainly at libraries (57 in NH and 9 in MA). He does not lecture but responds to questions from audiences. He is a convert to Islam from Christianity. He shares commonalities and differences in Islamic, Jewish, and Christian scriptures. He is sensitive to audiences when referring to female genital mutilation (FGM).

Iftar:

Finalized plans with adjustments.

- Kat will focus on theme of community and civility.
- Mayor will send remarks.
- Jenn summarized question technique.
- Tom will notify Marshall Murray.
- Ahmer will introduce Robert Azzi.
- Schedule: Azzi 7-8 with sunset at 8:06
- Set up at 5:30

Youth Project:

May 23rd will focus on body image, yoga workout, and healthy food.

Check-in with Commissioners:

Ahmer noted that the training program for the new computer system at Lawrence General and Pentucket Medical was led mainly by African Americans, including many women. It was great to see this diversity in what is typically a white male dominated field (IT).

Kat spoke about seeing a Hassidic family in Rockland County, one of the epicenters of the recent measles outbreak, and expressed concerns about potential discrimination due to perceived lack of vaccinations within the community.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:45 pm.