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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Bondi Beach Tragedy

Gunmen open fire on Hanukkah gathering

Alexandar Sullivan

At least 11 people were killed and 29 others injured on Sunday evening when two gunmen opened fire on a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach, one of Australia's most iconic public spaces, in an attack authorities declared an act of terrorism and

HIGHLIGHT

● At least 11 people killed, 29 wounded at Bondi Beach

● Attack targeted a Hanukkah celebration

● Declared an act of terrorism and antisemitism

● One gunman killed, one arrested in critical condition

● Explosive devices found near the scene



Photo: Sydney police investigate after a terrorist attack at a Jewish holiday celebration on Bondi Beach left at least 11 dead.
Image Source: AFP via Getty Images / BBC

antisemitism. The shooting unfolded around 6:45 p.m. along Campbell Parade, where hundreds had gathered for the annual Chanukah by the Sea event marking the start of the eight-day Jewish holiday. New South Wales Police said one attacker was fatally shot by officers at the scene, while a second

suspect was arrested and remains in critical condition. Investigators later recovered improvised explosive devices from a vehicle linked to the suspects. "This attack was designed to target Sydney's Jewish community," said Premier Chris Minns, calling it a deliberate act of hatred. Prime Minister

Anthony Albanese described the massacre as "an act of evil, antisemitism, terrorism that has struck the heart of our nation." Among the victims was Rabbi Eli Schlanger, assistant rabbi at Chabad of Bondi and a key organizer of the event, who previously served the Jewish community in Crown

Heights, Brooklyn. Community leaders also confirmed that a 12-year-old girl was among those killed, deepening the tragedy for families and mourners. Witnesses described chaos as gunfire echoed across the beach. "Everyone just dropped everything and ran," said Lachlan Moran, who was nearby. "People were crying. It was horrible." The attack drew condemnation from world leaders, including U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, while Israeli officials urged Australia to confront what they describe as a growing wave of antisemitism. New York Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani also responded, calling the shooting "a vile act of antisemitic terror." In a statement, he mourned the victims and noted Rabbi Schlanger's deep ties to Crown

Heights, adding, "Too many no longer feel safe to express their faith publicly." Mamdani praised the bravery of a local man who helped disarm one of the attackers and pledged to work to keep Jewish New Yorkers safe.



Mass shootings are rare in Australia, where strict gun laws have been in place since 1996. Sunday's attack was the country's deadliest in nearly three decades, leaving a shaken nation mourning lives lost during what should have been a night of faith and celebration.

Historic Rains Hit Washington

Atmospheric rivers force mass evacuations



Photo: Flooding in the Everson area.
Image Source: Micah Moeller/ NBC News

Lily Anderson

Torrential rain and rising rivers forced about 100,000 people to evacuate across Washington state this week, flooding communities still recovering from the devastating 2021 storms and raising fears of another long rebuilding process. In Everson,

Mayor John Perry described the scene as "déjà vu" as floodwaters from the Nooksack River once again submerged streets, businesses and City Hall. "It's pretty discouraging," Perry said, noting the town had only recently completed repairs from the last disaster. "We're anticipating similar or more extensive damage than in '21." A series of powerful atmospheric river storms dumped up to 16 inches of rain along the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains, according to the National Weather Service. More than

a dozen rivers were forecast to reach major flood stages between Wednesday and Friday, triggering mudslides and closing over 30 major highways. Gov. Bob Ferguson declared a state of emergency on Wednesday, mobilized the Washington National Guard, and requested a federal disaster declaration. "The flooding levels we're looking at are potentially historic," Ferguson said, though officials reported no fatalities as of Thursday evening. Nearby Mount Vernon braced for potential levee failures as the Skagit River approached a record crest, while residents across western Washington watched anxiously. As climate change intensifies rainfall, communities like Everson face the harsh reality of rebuilding — again — with resilience plans still unfinished and uncertainty ahead.



REAL ID UPDATE

Starting February 1, 2026, air travelers without a REAL ID or other acceptable form of ID (like a passport!) will be charged \$45 to verify their identify through *TSA Confirm.ID*.

If you don't have a REAL ID, a **passport card (which costs \$30)** or **passport book** are both **accepted REAL ID alternatives for domestic travel** and can help you avoid this fee.

For international air travel, you must have a passport book (not card).



passport book



passport card (can be used for domestic flights but **NOT** for international flights)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Runaway coach slams into building, injures driver

NYN Desk

An out-of-control bus slammed into a building in Midtown Manhattan on Thursday evening, triggering panic on a busy block just steps from Grand Central Terminal, authorities said. The Coach USA bus jumped the curb on East 41st Street between Lexington Avenue and Park Avenue around 4:35 p.m., crashing through scaffolding and striking a building's loading dock area, according to the FDNY, NYPD, and the



Department of Buildings. Witnesses described a series of loud crashes as the sidewalk shed collapsed, sending pedestrians fleeing. “I thought a bomb went off,” said one nearby worker, while another witness, Michael Jimenez, recalled seeing the driver maneuver awkwardly moments before the impact. “Everything just started falling — boom after boom,” he said. Officials confirmed the bus driver, a man in his 30s, was the only person injured and

was transported to Bellevue Hospital. No passengers or pedestrians were hurt. The bus was affiliated with the Newark Airport Express, and was at its first pickup point when the crash occurred. The Department of Buildings said there was no structural damage to the building and repairs to the damaged scaffolding are planned. Coach USA said it is investigating the incident, emphasizing safety as its top priority.

Holiday event delivers learning tools to Brooklyn kids



Photo: Brooklyn community receives new computer lab and toys for the holidays
Image Source: Online

Staff Reporter

Hundreds of families gathered in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, this holiday season as National Grid combined festive cheer with long-term investment by hosting a toy giveaway and unveiling a new community computer lab at Cooper Park. Children danced and laughed as they received brand-new

toys as part of National Grid's Season of Giving campaign, while parents and longtime residents reflected on the importance of community support. “It's about giving — this is the season to give,” said Debra Benders, a resident of more than 60 years. “A lot of people don't have, but National Grid gave generously so we could give

these toys to the kids.” The celebration expanded beyond gifts with the opening of a state-of-the-art computer lab inside the community center. The space features more than two dozen desktops and laptops, tablets, a podcast studio, and DJ equipment, designed to increase access to STEM education and digital skills. “This is a big community investment,” said Aubrey Kelman, National Grid's Community Investment Manager. “It's going to focus on STEM education and programming for young people.” Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso praised the partnership, saying it ensures opportunity regardless of neighborhood. “No matter where you grow up in Brooklyn, you deserve access to these tools,” he said, calling the initiative a meaningful step toward equity this holiday season.

Three LaGuardia students selected for national program

Senior Reporter

Three students at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City have been named 2025–26 Kaplan Leadership Scholars, earning significant financial and academic support as they prepare to complete their associate degrees and transfer to four-year institutions. Nataly Briones, Kenny Lin, and Mame Diarra Bousso Fall will each receive up to \$3,000 in stipends, along with funding for transportation, transfer expenses, and other academic costs, totaling nearly \$43,000 in combined support. The honor is awarded through the Kaplan Leadership Program, established in 2006 to assist high-achieving students from historically underrepresented backgrounds. Briones, a 36-year-old first-generation



Photo: LaGuardia CC students Briones, Lin, and Fall named 2025–26 Kaplan Leadership Scholars.
Image Source: LaGuardia Community College

college student and single mother of four, called the recognition affirming. “Being named a Kaplan Leadership Scholar gives me the confidence to continue trailblazing,” said Briones, who maintains a 3.98 GPA and plans to pursue advanced studies focused on health and wellness. Lin, 19, a political science major with a 3.97 GPA, said the program highlights the leadership potential of community

college students. He aspires to work in government and public policy. Bousso Fall, 21, who grew up in Senegal and now holds a 4.0 GPA, said the scholarship represents both opportunity and belonging as she works toward a future in medicine. According to the college, 92% of Kaplan Scholars go on to earn bachelor's degrees, underscoring the program's impact on student success.

Port Richmond celebrates community and renewal



Photo: Port Richmond's 5th annual holiday tree lighting brightens Port Richmond Avenue
Image Source: North Shore Alliance

Community Desk

Port Richmond Avenue was transformed into a festive gathering place on Friday, Dec. 5, as families and neighbors came together for the community's fifth annual holiday tree lighting, featuring what organizers describe as Staten Island's largest Christmas tree. The 60-foot tree, believed to be the second-largest in New York City, served as the centerpiece of an evening that began at 6 p.m. with a holiday walk from Hatfield Place to Rainbow Avenue, where visitors explored a Christmas village and local businesses. The main ceremony followed at 7 p.m., highlighted by performances from the NY Dance Company, the Port Richmond High School Marching Band, and students from PS-68.

“This is about bringing families back together and putting Port Richmond back on the map,” said Mario Buonviaggio, vice chairman of the Port Richmond North Shore Alliance, who outlined plans to one day turn the corridor into a true “Holiday Tourist Avenue.” Organizers are already aiming higher, with hopes of installing a 102-foot Norway spruce next year. Local businesses and sponsors, including Christian Construction, helped fund and support the event, while longtime residents praised its unifying spirit. For many, the celebration symbolized renewal in one of Staten Island's oldest neighborhoods, blending history, resilience, and holiday cheer into a growing community tradition.

Prayer Time IN New York

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05:52	11:52	02:12	04:30	05:52
05:53	11:53	02:13	04:30	05:53
05:53	11:53	02:13	04:31	05:53
05:54	11:54	02:14	04:31	05:54
05:54	11:54	02:14	04:32	05:54

OPINION

The World We Dream Of — A Moral Call to Build Our Future Together

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

The world we dream of is not an abstract vision or a distant promise. It is a world shaped by deliberate choices, shared values, and collective responsibility. The World We Dream Of, created by students in collaboration with educators and community partners, reminds us that global transformation begins not only in international forums but in classrooms, neighborhoods, and young hearts committed to justice, compassion, and service. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals offer a clear roadmap for human dignity and sustainability. From ending poverty and hunger to ensuring quality education, gender equality, clean water, climate action, and peace, these goals are deeply connected. They recognize a simple truth: no society can thrive while others are left behind. Progress must be inclusive,

equitable, and rooted in moral responsibility. What makes this book especially powerful is its focus on youth voices. Students reflect on global challenges not as distant problems but as shared human concerns. They speak about hunger, fairness, health, education, and environmental protection with sincerity and clarity. Their reflections show that young people already understand the world's challenges and are eager to be part of the solution. As a faith leader, I see a strong alignment between the values promoted in this book and the ethical teachings shared across religious traditions.



— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah
Vice President, United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), Queens Chapter

Justice, compassion, care for the vulnerable, and responsibility toward the Earth are universal principles. These values call us not only to personal reflection but to meaningful action. Serving the poor, protecting the environment, promoting equality, and standing against injustice are responsibilities we all share. Partnership is a central theme throughout this work. The goals outlined by the United Nations cannot be achieved by governments alone. They require cooperation among civil society, faith-based organizations, educators, families, and young people. This book itself is

an example of partnership in action, bringing together diverse voices to imagine and work toward a better future. At a time when division and conflict often dominate public discourse, The World We Dream Of offers a hopeful alternative. It shows that unity is possible when we listen to one another and work together with purpose. The students remind us that the future is not something we wait for; it is something we build together, starting now. The world we dream of will not come into existence by chance. It will be shaped by education that nurtures conscience, by faith that inspires service, and by youth who are empowered to lead. Our responsibility is to support them, learn from them, and walk alongside them as they help turn vision into reality.

“

“The world we dream of will be built when faith, education, and youth leadership come together to protect human dignity and ensure no one is left behind.”



“

“Unity is possible when we choose cooperation over division, and when we treat the Sustainable Development Goals as a shared moral responsibility.”

DO NOT COMPARE YOURSELF WITH OTHERS!

— Imam Shamsi Ali



— Imam Shamsi Ali :
Director of Jamaica Muslim Center,
Member of Mayor Elect Mamdani's Transition Team

“ We have divided among them their livelihood...” (QS. Az-Zukhruf: 32) Do not be envious of anyone's life. You know what has been given to others, but you do not know what has been withheld from them. A book cover is one thing, its contents another. Fame is a test that has caused many to fail. Power is a

temptation that has blinded many, making them forget their purpose of creation. Wealth is a sorcerer that stole Qarun's common sense. Status is a temptation that led Zulaikha to wrong a prophet Allah (Yusuf alaihis salaam). You are exactly where you are meant to be. You do not need to compare yourself with others. Those who keep comparing themselves to others will never experience satisfaction of life and can never live in peace. May Allah guide us!

ORGANIZATION

Spirit of Service: Met Council Gears Up for Ramadan 2026

Thousands to benefit from halal food packages as planning event held in new warehouse

James Anderson

With the holy month of Ramadan 2026 on the horizon, Met Council brought together community leaders, faith-based organizations, and food security advocates for its Annual Pre-Ramadan Convening, held this year at the organization's new warehouse at 5361 Preston Court in Brooklyn. The convening, which began with welcome remarks and introductions, served as both a planning session and a launchpad for the Council's Halal Food Distribution Program—an annual initiative that ensures thousands of Muslim families across New York City can observe Ramadan with dignity. This coming year's food packages include halal meat, rice, dates, lentils, and other essential items for iftar and suhoor meals.



During the convening, guests participated in discussions about the impact of Met Council's halal network, coordinated efforts for Ramadan food outreach, and the continued development of the Halal Food Pantry Working Group. The event concluded with

a guided tour of the under-construction warehouse space, which is expected to become a hub for citywide food distribution in the months ahead. In a powerful endorsement of the Council's efforts, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO



of Save the People, said: "Met Council has become a lifeline for countless families during the blessed month. Their commitment to serving all communities with respect and compassion is a model for our city."

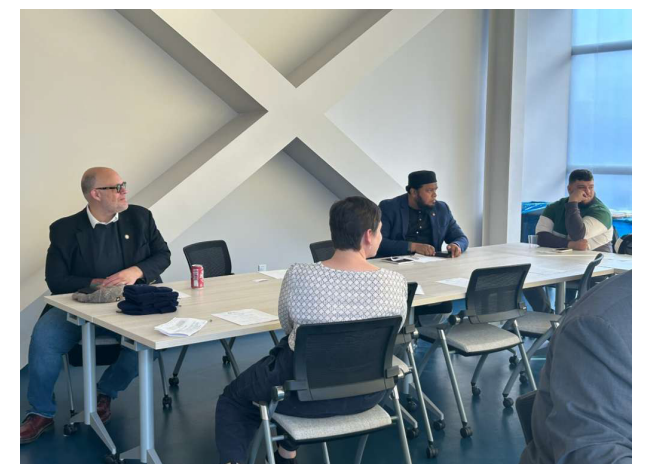
The distribution program, which Met Council runs in partnership with local mosques, volunteers, and community leaders, is designed to go beyond physical nourishment. The organization has emphasized its intent to uplift families spiritually

and emotionally, offering a sense of support during one of the most sacred times in the Islamic calendar. Founded with the mission to "feed the hungry and serve the poor," Met Council has long recognized the importance of cultural and religious dietary needs in its food security efforts. The halal food initiative, especially during Ramadan, has become a core part of its inclusive service model. As Ramadan 2026 approaches, the organization's preparations are well underway. With new infrastructure, dedicated partners, and a clear vision, Met Council's Halal Food Distribution Program is set to serve more families than ever before—ensuring that no one is left behind during the holiest month of the Islamic year.



ORGANIZATION

Faith leaders and food justice advocates unite ahead of holy month



INTERFAITH

Faith Leaders Unite in NYC to Promote Peace and Shared Humanity

OPHC Interfaith Council hosts gathering focused on dialogue, respect, and inclusion

Ashley Reed

In a powerful display of unity and shared purpose, the Interfaith Council for Words & Symbols of Peace and Healing, convened by the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC), recently brought together faith leaders from across the five boroughs for an evening of dialogue, reflection, and community connection. The gathering, held in a warm and welcoming space in lower Manhattan, served as both a symbolic and practical reminder that in the face of rising hate and division, New Yorkers from every faith and background can—and do—come together to affirm one another’s humanity. Vijay Ramjattan, Executive



Director of OPHC, was present alongside a diverse group of clergy and community leaders, contributing to a successful and heartfelt evening. Participants engaged in thoughtful conversations around the power of language, ritual, and cultural symbols in fostering healing



and connection. The focus remained clear throughout the evening: to build a city where all people feel safe, seen, and valued in their authentic faith identities.

As guests shared personal reflections, one common theme emerged—New Yorkers have more in common than they often realize. From shared values

of compassion and justice to the desire for safe neighborhoods and thriving families, the event highlighted the bonds that tie communities together across lines of religion, race, and heritage. “When we create space to listen, to learn, and to truly see each other, we strengthen the heart of this city we all call home,” was one sentiment that echoed throughout the event. The Interfaith Council’s work is grounded in a vision of New York where dialogue is not just encouraged but embedded into the city’s framework for safety and inclusion. In recent years, the Council has worked to uplift voices from marginalized faith communities, respond to incidents of bias, and promote solidarity through public education

and community-based initiatives. At a time when hate crimes remain a pressing concern, gatherings like this one serve as crucial reminders of the role spiritual leaders and local institutions play in shaping a more inclusive, respectful, and empathetic society. The evening concluded with a reaffirmation of the Council’s mission: to champion words and symbols that promote peace, understanding, and healing, and to ensure that all New Yorkers—regardless of faith—can live without fear. In a city defined by its diversity, the work of the OPHC Interfaith Council stands as a beacon of what’s possible when communities lead with compassion and stand together in purpose.



INTERFAITH

Leaders from many faiths reaffirm commitment to compassion and connection



AWARENESS



“Addiction is a Human Struggle”: Imam Shahidullah Addresses Drug Crisis

Faith-based message emphasizes dignity, compassion, and community action

William Henry

Leaders from across faith, government, and public health sectors gathered for a powerful event addressing the urgent issue of drug awareness and prevention, with a strong call to action led by Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People (STP USA). Held in collaboration with the Consul General of the Dominican Republic in New York and the President of the Dominican Republic’s National Council of Drugs, the event focused on community-driven strategies to combat rising substance abuse, especially among youth. In his keynote remarks, Imam Shahidullah delivered a deeply moving address rooted in faith, compassion,

and social responsibility. “Drug abuse is more than an individual struggle; it is a wound that weakens families, damages social harmony, and threatens the future of our youth — the very future Allah has entrusted us to protect,” he told attendees. Drawing on Islamic principles, he reminded the audience that life, health, and dignity are sacred trusts. “Addiction is not a moral failure; it is a human struggle. Many fall into substance abuse due to trauma, loneliness, poverty, or mental health challenges. These are our children, our neighbors, our friends.” Throughout his speech, Imam Shahidullah emphasized that education is the first line of defense. “We must speak openly—in our homes, mosques,



schools, and community gatherings—about the dangers of substance abuse,” he urged. “Our youth must understand that their bodies and minds are trusts from Allah, deserving of protection.”

He further called for mosques and faith centers to go beyond sermons, urging them to serve as places of counseling, mentorship, and healing, in partnership with health professionals. “When

faith, knowledge, and compassion come together, healing becomes possible,” he said. Equally important, he noted, is offering support to those already affected by addiction. “We must provide real paths to recovery—access to counseling, rehabilitation, spiritual guidance, and community support.” As faith leaders, health officials, and international dignitaries listened, his words echoed a message of unity: that overcoming addiction requires both action and empathy. “Prayer is not a replacement for action, but a force that strengthens it,” he added. The event highlighted the growing global nature of the drug crisis and the need for cross-cultural collaboration.

With rising substance abuse statistics around the world, speakers emphasized the importance of prevention, interagency cooperation, and breaking stigma through dialogue. Imam Shahidullah closed his remarks with a collective appeal to build healthier, safer communities guided by mercy and justice. “Let us demonstrate that our faith is a source of healing, responsibility, and hope,” he said. “Together, we can protect life, restore dignity, and uplift our families.” The event stood as a powerful reminder that addressing addiction is not just a policy challenge, but a moral and spiritual imperative—one that demands united leadership and unwavering compassion.





TOY & JOY GIVEAWAY

Join us for a joyful toy distribution event for children in our community.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Location: 87-41 165th Street
Jamaica, Queens 11432

Time: 2:00 PM

In partnership with Light the World & Elhaam Academy

For more information call: 718-200-3050 or info@stpusa.org



INSPIRATION

Firefighters from FDNY Share Insights with Darul Uloom Students

Event encourages youth to explore roles in public safety and leadership

Noah Presley

Students at Darul Uloom New York received a special visit from members of the Fire Department of New York's (FDNY) Islamic Officers Society, offering an engaging and inspiring look into public service, fire safety, and future career opportunities within one of the city's most vital departments. The visit featured Firefighter Eisa Saleh and Firefighter Mati Anwar of Engine 52, who spoke directly with students about the role of firefighters in New York City, the structure of the FDNY, and how young people from diverse backgrounds—especially Muslim youth—can pursue careers in emergency services. With curiosity and enthusiasm, students listened attentively as the officers described the day-to-day responsibilities of a firefighter, including emergency response, community outreach, and specialized training. The firefighters also



shared personal stories from their careers, offering a relatable and real-world perspective on what it means to serve in one of the nation's largest and busiest fire departments. One of the key themes of the visit was representation and opportunity. As Muslim firefighters, both FF Saleh and FF Anwar emphasized



the importance of community visibility within civic institutions and encouraged students to see themselves as future leaders and protectors in their neighborhoods. The session also covered practical resources provided by the FDNY, such as recruitment programs, physical and written exam preparation,

and support systems for those interested in joining. Students were encouraged to ask questions, many of which focused on training requirements, job challenges, and how firefighters balance faith with demanding schedules. Teachers and school staff praised the initiative, noting how such visits offer

valuable exposure to civic engagement and career awareness. By connecting students to professionals who share their cultural and religious identity, the event underscored the message that service to others is not only honorable but also accessible. Beyond career advice, the event served as a bridge between the FDNY and the local Muslim community, fostering mutual respect and open dialogue. It was a reminder of the FDNY's ongoing efforts to build relationships across New York's diverse population and ensure that its workforce reflects the city it serves. For the students of Darul Uloom New York, the visit left a lasting impression—offering insight, motivation, and a vision of what's possible when community, service, and faith come together. As the firefighters concluded their presentation, they left the students with more than just knowledge—they left them with inspiration.



EDUCATION

Hands-On Learning at Elhaam Academy Strengthens Spiritual Values

Story Time and Craft session explores importance of Salah in student-friendly way

Jessica Morgan

In a warm and welcoming atmosphere, students at Elhaam Academy recently participated in the school's second Story Time and Craft event, a program designed to engage young learners with Islamic teachings through interactive and creative experiences. This session, held in the school's learning space, centered around the importance of Salah, the daily prayer that forms a core pillar of the Islamic faith. The event began with a story that introduced students to the concept of Salah in a relatable and age-appropriate way. With attentive eyes and eager hearts, children listened closely as the story unfolded—highlighting not just the ritual aspect of prayer, but its spiritual significance, discipline, and connection to Allah. For many of the young attendees, this format offered a refreshing and memorable approach to learning about one of Islam's most important acts of worship. Following the storytelling session, students were invited to participate in



a hands-on craft activity designed to reinforce the key lessons from the story. With art supplies in hand, they engaged in a project that helped them express what they had learned in a creative and personal way. Teachers and facilitators guided the students as they worked, encouraging conversation and



reflection about the role Salah plays in their daily lives.

The activity not only sparked artistic expression but also reinforced the day's core message through a tactile and visual learning experience. Events like these, educators noted, are particularly effective in helping children internalize values and traditions in ways that are enjoyable and

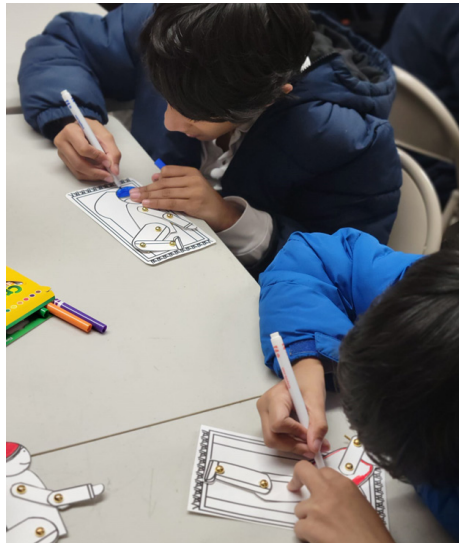
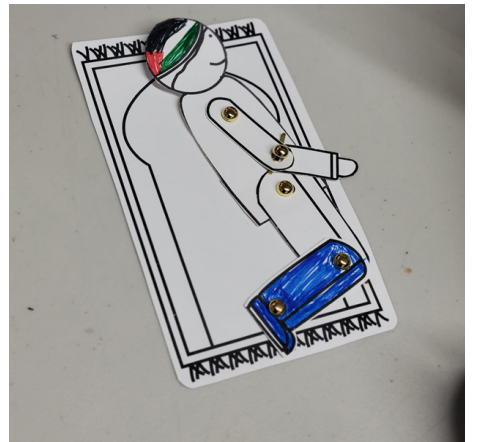
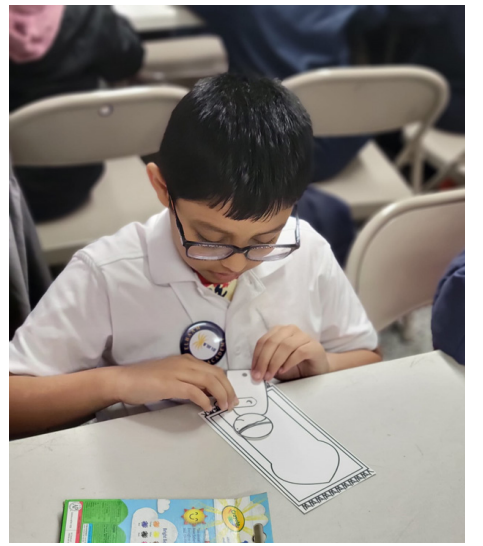
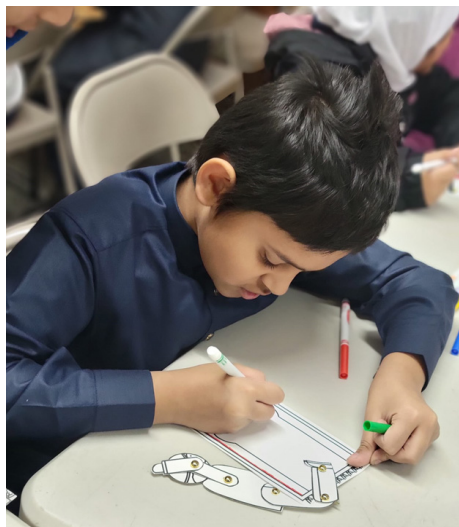
meaningful. After completing their crafts, students gathered to enjoy snacks and refreshments, offering a moment of camaraderie and community bonding. This informal setting gave children the opportunity to relax, share their work, and strengthen friendships—an important part of Elhaam Academy's

holistic educational approach. The Story Time and Craft series reflects Elhaam Academy's broader mission: to nurture both the minds and hearts of its students by integrating faith-based teachings with engaging, developmentally appropriate educational methods. By combining storytelling, creative activities, and social interaction, the academy creates a well-rounded learning environment that fosters not only academic and spiritual growth, but also a strong sense of community and identity. As this second event in the series drew to a close, the energy in the room made it clear that the experience had resonated deeply with the students. Moments of quiet reflection were balanced by laughter and shared excitement, a testament to the success of an event that blended learning with joy. For the students of Elhaam Academy, events like these offer more than just a lesson—they build lasting memories rooted in faith, creativity, and connection.



EDUCATION

Faith, friendship, and learning come together in special event



LEADERSHIP

Netrokona Jela Samiti USA Announces New Executive Committee for 2026–2027

Community leaders pledge to continue cultural legacy and expand organizational efforts



Alex Mason

The Netrokona Jela Samiti USA, Inc., a prominent organization serving the Bangladeshi diaspora in the United States, has officially announced its new executive committee for the 2026–2027

term. The formation of the committee was confirmed following community consensus and internal organizational processes, with key announcements made on December 7 and December 10, 2025. Leading the new committee is Amirul



Islam Kamal, who has been elected as President. Known for his active role in

community engagement and leadership within the diaspora, Kamal expressed deep gratitude for the trust placed in him. “We are committed to continuing the mission of this organization, preserving the rich history and traditions of Netrokona while fostering unity among our members in the United States,” he said.

Joining him in leadership are Biplob Roy as General Secretary and A.K.M. Mofidul Islam Khan (Ripon) as Organizing Secretary. Also serving in vital roles are Indrajit Singh Gopal as Vice President, and Zakir Hossain Riyad as Joint Secretary. In a statement released by the organization, the Samiti emphasized that the new committee would work to strengthen

its operations, make activities more dynamic and structured, and deliver more impactful services to its members both in the United States and abroad.

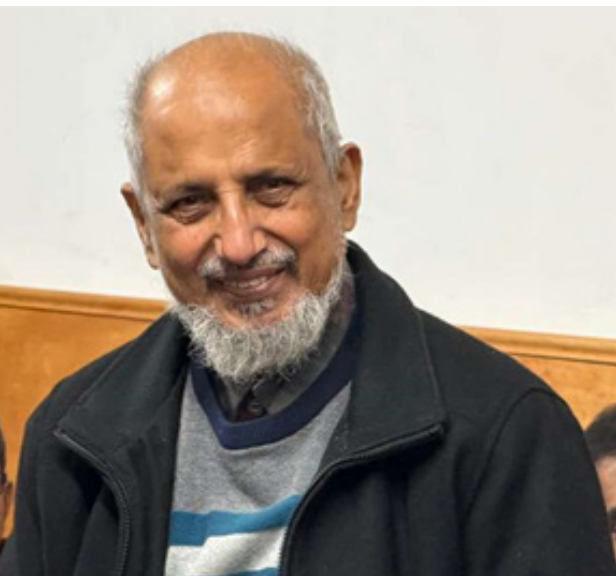
The leadership expressed collective thanks to all members and advisors who contributed to the formation of the new committee, stating that “the faith placed in us is a powerful motivator to serve with sincerity, transparency, and dedication.” President Amirul Islam Kamal added that a full committee announcement would follow soon, outlining plans for upcoming initiatives aimed at welfare, cultural celebration, and cross-generational engagement among the Netrokona-origin community in the U.S.

The organization, known for its slogan which roughly translates to “A sun burns unceasingly in the corner of the eye—that is my sacred land, Netrokona”, continues to uphold its mission of connecting the diaspora with their roots while creating meaningful contributions in their adopted homeland. As the new term begins, there is a renewed sense of purpose and optimism. The new committee aims to work collaboratively to organize events, expand outreach, and provide a platform for the next generation to carry forward the legacy of Netrokona in America. Community members have welcomed the leadership transition, expressing support for the incoming team and hope for a stronger, more united future.



LEADERSHIP

Leaders reflect on responsibilities and vision for future growth



ENGAGEMENT

NY Bangladeshi Journalists Meet Mayor-Elect Zohraan Mamdani's Team

Community leaders and journalists engage in dialogue with transition team members

Daniel Matthew

In a meaningful gathering that reflected both civic pride and rising political influence, members of Zohraan Mamdani's Mayoral Transition Team met with the New York Bangladesh Press Club for a community dialogue on the future of the city and the role of Bangladeshi-Americans within it. Held at Nobanna Party Hall in Jackson Heights on Sunday, December 7, the meeting brought together journalists, elected officials, transition team members, and community advocates for an evening of discussion, collaboration, and reflection. Presided over by Press Club President Monwar Islam and conducted by General Secretary Mominul Islam Mojumder, the event opened with a recitation from the Qur'an by Club Treasurer Rashid Ahmad and welcome remarks from the President. Representing the Mayor-Elect's Transition Team,



speakers included Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan, Arman Chowdhury CPA, Shamsul Haque, Kazi Fauzia, Tazin Azad, and Fariha Akhter, among others. Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan emphasized the overwhelming interest in joining the new city administration, noting, "Over 70,000 applications have been submitted to be part of the mayoral team. While the exact number of Bangladeshi applicants is still unknown, our

community's strong showing at the polls has caught national attention—even in the White House." He added that efforts are underway to identify qualified Bangladeshi professionals for inclusion in the city government, particularly advocating for the creation of multiple community centers in Brooklyn and Queens. Arman Chowdhury CPA highlighted the uphill battle Mamdani

due to overwhelming support from Muslim and Bangladeshi voters, he secured a decisive victory." He underscored that the community's role in the transition team is not based on individual success but a collective achievement of all Bangladeshi-American voters. "The more we participate in elections, the stronger our position becomes," he said. Shamsul Haque echoed those sentiments, stating that the city's skyrocketing cost of living was a major concern for voters. "New Yorkers are struggling. We sent Mamdani to City Hall to bring affordability back." Kazi Fauzia, a non-profit leader, emphasized how long-term community activism helped 12 Bangladeshi-Americans earn spots on the transition team. Tazin Azad expressed hope that the mayor would listen to education-related concerns, noting that "Bangladeshi students are performing well, and with support, their future is bright." Fariha Akhter spoke

about ongoing struggles for a sustainable and joyful life in New York, while encouraging unity within the community ahead of uncertain political developments in the national landscape. Among the additional speakers were former club presidents Dr. Wazed A. Khan and Abu Taher, advisor ABM Saleh Uddin, and journalists Shah Newaz, Manjurul Haque, Rimon Islam, Syed Elias Khasru, and others. District 36 Assemblywoman Mary Zubaida was also present, alongside senior journalist Shahriar Rahman of the transition team. The event concluded with a floral welcome for the transition team, symbolizing a strong bridge between the media, community leadership, and the incoming city administration. The evening served as a testament to the growing civic power of Bangladeshi-Americans in New York City—and their readiness to shape its future.



faced, explaining, "This was not an easy win. Powerful opposition groups worked against Mamdani, even receiving remarks from former President Donald Trump. Yet,



RECOGNITION

Muslim Advisory Board Leads Inclusive Celebration

Event honors contributions of Muslim residents in Suffolk County

Issac Andrew

Suffolk County held a landmark celebration on Monday, December 8, 2025, as community members, officials, and faith leaders gathered at the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge, NY, to mark Muslim Appreciation Day — an event that honored the cultural and civic contributions of the Muslim community across the county. Organized by the Suffolk County Muslim American Advisory Board, in collaboration with County Executive Edward P. Romaine and the Suffolk County Office of Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement, the evening featured meaningful remarks, cultural exchange, and expressions of unity in diversity. Held from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the program served as a reminder of Suffolk's ongoing



commitment to inclusion and equity. Members of the Muslim community were recognized not only for their cultural heritage but also for their active roles in education, healthcare, business, civic engagement, and public service. The Muslim American Advisory Board — chaired by Lamyia Elkouily with Dr.

Mostafa Elsehamy serving as secretary — includes members such as Mohamed Elzanaty, Talat Hamdani, Nawab Faridi, Dr. Hafizur Rehman, Sana Nadim, Rafiq Khan, Vilma Santos, and Sadri Altinok. Together, they helped lead the initiative to make this day a meaningful space for reflection and

recognition. The event was supported by a dedicated team from the Office of Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement, led by Executive Director Sandra Alfano and team members Belinda Padanganan, Angel M. Rivera, Ahkyra Jackson, and Yessica Rivera, among others. "This was more than a

celebration — it was a statement that Suffolk County values the contributions of every resident," said one advisory board member. "Our diverse backgrounds enrich the county, and events like this ensure all voices are seen and heard." Attendees praised the event for fostering connection and solidarity, especially

at a time when public recognition of minority communities is more important than ever. Organizers emphasized that the appreciation shown during the evening reflects not only a growing awareness but also a continued commitment to bridge-building between communities and local government. The event concluded with a call for continued collaboration and civic engagement, encouraging members of the Muslim community — especially youth — to remain active in shaping Suffolk County's future. As Suffolk County moves forward, events like Muslim Appreciation Day signal a hopeful and inclusive direction — one where shared values and collective respect define what it means to be a united community.



SOLIDARITY

'Community Shonjog' Honors Humanitarian Work in NYC

Ten organizations recognized for impactful contributions

Marcos Alonso

In a vibrant celebration of service and solidarity, Prothom Alo North America, in collaboration with Human Concern USA, hosted a special community event titled "Community Shonjog" on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Gulshan Terrace, New York. The event honored ten humanitarian organizations working in the United States for their continued commitment to uplifting lives and strengthening community ties. The evening quickly transformed into a spirited gathering as leaders from across the Bangladeshi-American community came together to recognize and celebrate shared values, purpose, and dedication. From nonprofit representatives to local activists and advocates, the event created an atmosphere of meaningful connection and mutual appreciation. Organizers from



Prothom Alo USA, one of North America's most prominent Bangla-language newspapers, emphasized the importance of fostering deeper connections between the press, grassroots organizations, and the wider diaspora. "Community Shonjog," meaning "community connection," aimed to be more than a recognition ceremony — it was a



platform for unity and collaboration. The ten organizations recognized during the program were commended for their impactful efforts in fields such as humanitarian aid, health,

youth development, refugee support, and community advocacy. The honorees reflected the diversity and depth of contributions made by Bangladeshi-led initiatives across the United States. Speakers during the event praised the collective efforts of these organizations in addressing local and global challenges. A recurring theme

throughout the evening was the power of service rooted in empathy and cultural responsibility. "Events like these remind us how much can be achieved when we come together with a common purpose," said one community leader in attendance. The collaboration between Prothom Alo North America and Human Concern

USA was widely appreciated as a model of partnership between media and civil society. Attendees noted that this synergy allows important stories of service to be amplified, inspiring more people to get involved in volunteerism and community development. The organizers extended gratitude to all participants and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting humanitarian work through future initiatives. The event concluded with a call to strengthen the bonds between Bangladeshi-American institutions and individuals working to make a difference. With heartfelt connections, shared vision, and community pride at its core, "Community Shonjog" stood as a shining example of how media, nonprofits, and grassroots efforts can unite to celebrate and empower.



WOMEN

Science Meets Purpose: Female Researchers Tackle Regional Challenges

L'Oréal-UNESCO and Khalifa University spotlight future leaders in STEM

Carlos Stewart

In a powerful display of scientific innovation and regional leadership,

the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Middle East Regional Young Talents Program, in collaboration with

Khalifa University of Science and Technology, honored 12 Arab female scientists for their pioneering

research. Held in Dubai, the initiative celebrates women whose work in science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics (STEM) addresses pressing global and regional challenges. Six honorees offered

insights into their research and the motivations driving their work.



Photo: Aysha Al-Shehhi

Aysha Al-Shehhi shared her work in soft robotics, describing it as a field that blends scientific rigor with creativity. Her research focuses on developing a flexible robotic arm designed for inspection and maintenance inside aero-engines and other confined environments. "By enabling robots to reach places humans or traditional rigid robots cannot," she explained, "this work supports the development of smarter and safer systems."



Photo: Fatemah Bahman

Fatemah Bahman is tackling the intersection of obesity, inflammation, and metabolic disease. Her work focuses on how dietary factors and fat-derived hormones influence gene expression through epigenetic changes. "My goal is to identify early biomarkers and novel therapeutic targets," she said, "and to design personalized nutrition strategies that support lasting metabolic health."



Photo: Fatimah Abdulhakim

Fatimah Abdulhakim is focused on strengthening plant resilience in the face of increasing environmental stress. Her research aims to help crops survive heat, drought, and disease without excessive water or chemicals. "I wanted to address how we can build a more sustainable and resilient agricultural system that supports long-term food security," she said.



Photo: Ayat Hammad

Ayat Hammad emphasized the connection between the gut microbiome and major health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and breast cancer. "I'm deeply passionate about contributing to the global shift toward personalized medicine," she said, recalling how her clinical experiences sparked a desire to improve care for women. Her research seeks to restore balance within the microbiome to improve health outcomes and quality of life.



Photo: Nadine Hosny El-Said

Nadine Hosny El-Said, based at New York University Abu Dhabi, is exploring the vast and largely uncharted territory of long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs). She aims to understand how these molecules shape the 3D architecture of DNA and contribute to conditions such as osteoarthritis and Alzheimer's disease. "What about the remaining 98 percent of our DNA?" she asked. "That question became my driving force." Her ultimate goal is to pave the way for RNA-based therapies that treat disease at its molecular roots.



Photo: Ohood Al-Ghadani

Ohood Al-Ghadani is addressing a challenge closer to home: post-harvest losses in Oman's agriculture sector. By developing innovative, damage-resistant packaging solutions, she hopes to reduce waste, increase economic value, and improve food security. "I wanted to leverage my tools and knowledge to create solutions that are practical and impactful," she said.

These six women exemplify a new generation of scientists whose research is deeply rooted in solving real-world problems. Their work spans disciplines but is unified by a common goal: to improve lives, empower communities, and inspire future generations across the Middle East and beyond. The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science initiative continues to serve as a beacon of recognition and opportunity for women leading innovation in the region.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Faith and Generosity on Display at Al-Falah's 3rd Annual Dinner

Fundraising event draws community leaders and respected speakers

Fran Chilwell

A spirit of unity and purpose filled the air as the Al-Falah Foundation and Al-Falah Dawah Center hosted their 3rd Annual Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at their center located at 179-05 Jamaica Avenue in Jamaica, NY. The evening brought together a vibrant cross-section of the local Muslim community, faith leaders, and supporters committed to sustaining the center's growing Dawah efforts and social outreach programs. The program commenced promptly at 6:00 PM, welcoming attendees with a warm atmosphere of faith, generosity, and shared commitment. A major highlight of the evening was the keynote address by Shaikh Dr. Hasan Abunar, one of the Taraweeh Imams of the revered Masjid Al-Aqsa. His presence



and powerful words of inspiration underscored the spiritual foundation of the evening and the importance of supporting institutions that provide both religious guidance and community services. Joining the program were guest speakers Dr. Hafiz Zakir Ahmed and Habeeb Uddin Ahmed,



who each emphasized

the critical role that centers like Al-Falah play in promoting Islamic knowledge, youth engagement, and charitable action in urban communities. Their remarks called on attendees to reflect on the far-reaching impact of their support, from weekly prayer

gatherings and education to food drives and interfaith initiatives. The event also honored several distinguished guests, including Amir Khan and Mohammad Zahid, as Guests of Honor, acknowledging their ongoing contributions to the community and steadfast support of the Dawah Center's mission. Shoaib Sultan and Majdood Siddiqui were welcomed as Special Guests, further highlighting the diverse network of leaders rallying behind the foundation. Fundraising was a central part of the evening, with suggested donation tiers set at \$30 for individuals, \$100 for families, and \$1,000 for a sponsored table. Attendees were encouraged to donate through Zelle, PayPal, or in-person, with clear signage and QR codes facilitating a seamless giving experience.

Behind the scenes, the program was organized and supported by dedicated volunteers and members of the center, including Imam Hafiz Zafeer Ali and Imam Joynul Islam, who helped bring the event together with sincerity and vision. Their efforts helped create a space where both long-time supporters and new donors could come together and affirm their commitment to sustaining a strong Islamic presence in Queens. As the evening came to a close, community members departed not only having enjoyed a meaningful dinner, but also with renewed energy to support and uplift the programs and services that Al-Falah continues to provide. Events like these stand as a testament to what can be achieved when community, faith, and purpose unite under one roof.



Flashback 2025

Save the People USA: A Year of Service, Impact, and Community Empowerment

Emily Parker

In 2025, Save the People USA (STPUSA) continued to make its mark as a leading force in humanitarian service

and civic engagement across New York and beyond. Rooted in its mission to “protect lives and empower people,” the Queens-based nonprofit expanded its

reach through a wide array of programs focused on education, food security, youth leadership, mental health support, and public safety. From

transforming city streets through the Summer Streets initiative to mentoring future changemakers through its Youth Internship Program,

STPUSA consistently demonstrated how strategic action and community-centered leadership can drive lasting, positive change. As the year unfolded,

the organization’s work stood as a testament to the power of compassion, collaboration, and grassroots commitment.

Fighting Hunger with Dignity: STPUSA’s Food Drives Support Hundreds Across Queens

Throughout 2025, Save the People USA (STPUSA) remained at the forefront of combating food insecurity through a series of well-organized, compassionate food distribution events across Jamaica, Queens. Two standout initiatives included a community food pantry, where over 200 boxes of groceries and baby supplies were distributed, and the “Only Thanks, No Hate” Thanksgiving halal food drive, which reached more than 400 families with meals and health resources. These efforts, powered by STPUSA’s volunteers, partner organizations like Met Council, COPO, and more than just relief, restored communal bonds. For many recipients, these events meant reassurance in difficult times. For volunteers and organizers, they were reminders of the power of collective action. The food drives exemplified STPUSA’s mission to serve with compassion, ensuring that no one is left behind in moments of need.



Bringing Community to the Streets: STPUSA Champions Civic Engagement Across NYC



In 2025, Save the People USA (STPUSA) played a leading role in some of New York City’s most dynamic community events, including NYC DOT’s Summer Streets in both Manhattan and Queens, and the 5th Annual Community Day in Southeast Queens. These large-scale public initiatives created opportunities for civic connection, youth development, and cultural celebration—all centered around the organization’s mission of empowering communities through education, public service, and creative outreach.

At Summer Streets, STPUSA activated pedestrian-friendly zones with booths offering health resources, youth activities, arts, and civic education—turning busy boulevards into vibrant spaces of connection. From henna kit distribution and bracelet-making to hygiene and bracelet-making to hygiene kit distribution, the organization brought joy, awareness, and unity to families and individuals of all ages. The presence of Mayor Eric Adams and DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez at the Queens event further affirmed the value of community-led involvement in public life.



Meanwhile, at the 5th Annual Community Day, STPUSA engaged local residents through interactive art stations, school supply giveaways, and face painting, while building bridges between grassroots efforts and government support. These events not only showcased the power of creative outreach but also deepened STPUSA’s role as a trusted, visible force in community development. Through these initiatives, STPUSA gave thousands of New Yorkers access to resources, support, and experiences that promote well-being and belonging. More than just public events, they served as reminders that civic life thrives when communities are actively engaged, informed, and celebrated.

Flashback2025

Save the People USA Takes a Stand Against Hate in 2025

In 2025, Save the People USA partnered with the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes and Darul Uloom NY to host "NYC Youth

Moving Forward Against Hate." The event educated students on hate crimes, bias, and community responsibility through an interactive session

led by OPHC Director Vijah Ramjattan. With participation from Fatima Niass of STPUSA, the program encouraged youth to

lead change, offering access to community project grants and emphasizing unity across diverse backgrounds. The initiative empowered students

to confront discrimination and promote inclusion—highlighting STPUSA's commitment to building a safer, more informed future.



Save the People USA Joins Global Peace Walk at UN Church Center in 2025

In May 2025, Save the People USA participated in the 12th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace and Peace Walk, hosted by HWPL at the UN Church Center Chapel.

Represented by Fatima Niass, the organization highlighted how its humanitarian work—particularly food drives and volunteer service—embodies everyday acts of peace.

The event brought together interfaith leaders and peace advocates, reinforcing the importance of grassroots compassion in building global harmony. By sharing stories of service and

community impact, STPUSA aligned itself with international efforts to promote unity, empathy, and coexistence—proving that peace begins with action on the ground.



Save the People USA Empowers Youth Through Summer Internship Program in 2025

In 2025, Save the People USA celebrated its Summer Internship Program with an Intern Appreciation Day on August 12, recognizing the

vital contributions of youth volunteers. Led by Executive Director Kelly A. Watts and Office Manager Fatima Niass, the event honored interns

who worked across outreach, advocacy, and event planning. Through hands-on service, interns gained leadership, teamwork, and nonprofit

management skills, while directly strengthening STPUSA's community impact. The program exemplified the organization's investment

in developing future leaders committed to service, compassion, and civic responsibility.



Save the People USA Supports Youth Empowerment at NYPD Career Day 2025

In May 2025, Save the People USA joined over 60 organizations at COPO's Youth Career Day held at the NYPD Police Academy in Queens, a landmark event aimed at

connecting immigrant and underrepresented youth with careers in public service. STPUSA's collaboration with COPO and other community partners reinforced its mission

to empower future leaders through access, opportunity, and civic engagement. By participating in this high-impact initiative, STPUSA helped foster trust between youth and law

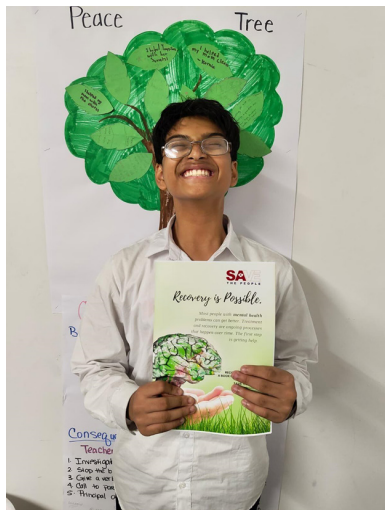
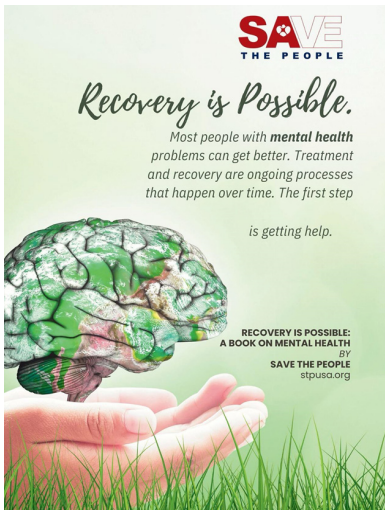
enforcement, while encouraging young attendees—especially from Muslim and immigrant communities—to envision themselves in leadership roles. The event strengthened

STPUSA's ongoing commitment to building inclusive pathways for youth development and public service.



Flashback 2025

Save the People USA Champions Mental Health Awareness in 2025



In October 2025, Save the People USA marked World Mental Health Day by deepening its commitment to emotional well-being and community healing. Partnering with Elhaam Academy, the organization supported student advisory sessions focused on empathy, care, and compassion. To further STPUSA's mission, the organization distributed its resource booklet titled *Recovery is Possible*, offering families and children practical guidance on navigating mental health challenges. This initiative reflected STPUSA's proactive approach to destigmatizing mental health support, emphasizing that healing begins with awareness, education, and kindness.



Save the People USA Advances Civic Literacy in 2025

In 2025, Save the People USA deepened its civic engagement efforts by leading impactful voter education workshops across New York City. A standout event took place at the

Parkchester Islamic Center in the Bronx, where STPUSA partnered with the NYC Civic Engagement Commission and Voter Language Assistance Program to educate the Bangladeshi-American

community on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and voting rights—delivered entirely in Bengali for accessibility. By simplifying complex election systems and ensuring language support,

STPUSA empowered first-time and multilingual voters to participate with confidence. The initiative not only increased civic awareness but also reinforced the organization's mission

to build an informed, active, and inclusive electorate in underrepresented communities.



Photo: Dr. Shara Sayeed, Chair and Executive Director of the New York City Civic Engagement Commission, explaining the voting system.

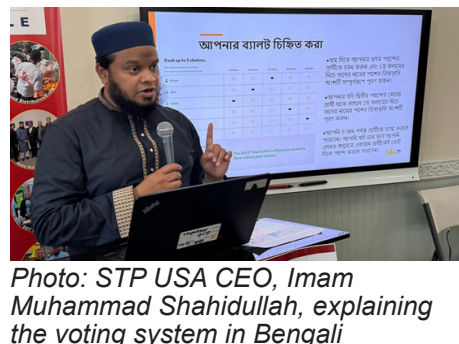


Photo: STP USA CEO, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, explaining the voting system in Bengali



Save the People USA Elevates Interfaith Dialogue on Global Platforms in 2025

In 2025, Save the People USA extended its advocacy beyond borders through active participation in global peace and interfaith summits held in Berlin, Abu Dhabi, Sweden, and at the United Nations. Represented by

CEO Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, the organization contributed to the Hate to Hope initiative by joining faith leaders, diplomats, and policymakers to address rising hate, discrimination, and extremism.

Through powerful dialogues, STPUSA emphasized the role of faith-based leadership, education, and community engagement in building understanding and unity across religious and cultural divides. By representing grassroots

humanitarian perspectives at international forums, the organization reinforced its mission of transforming division into hope and shaping a more peaceful, inclusive world.



Looking Ahead: Carrying the Mission Forward

2025 marked a year of tremendous growth, action, and community impact for Save the People USA. From distributing essential goods to engaging in global peace dialogues, the organization remained steadfast in its

mission to uplift communities, empower youth, and build a more compassionate world. Each initiative—whether local food drives, civic workshops, or international interfaith gatherings—reflected STPUSA's belief that service

rooted in empathy and justice can create lasting change. The voices of volunteers, the strength of community partners, and the resilience of those served have shaped a year of meaningful milestones.

As STPUSA looks ahead to 2026, the commitment continues: to expand outreach, strengthen partnerships, and amplify the voices of those often unheard. The road forward is one of hope, determination, and

shared responsibility. With compassion as the guide, Save the People USA will continue to serve, inspire, and build a future where dignity and opportunity are a right—not a privilege—for all.



Battle for the House

Democrats and Republicans replay the lessons of 2018

Amkel Nourush

As both parties gear up for the next midterm battle, two lawmakers shaped by the political earthquake of 2018 are now leading opposing efforts to determine control of the U.S. House. Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood of Illinois is working to engineer another “blue wave,” while Republican Rep. Brian Jack of Georgia is mobilizing candidates to protect his party’s narrow majority. Jack, now a first-term congressman, has become a frequent presence in the Oval Office, advising President Donald Trump on recruitment and endorsements. He argues that enthusiasm



Photo: Brian Jack, left, speaking at a campaign rally, March 9, 2024, in Rome, Ga. and Lauren Underwood speaking with reporters, Aug. 9, 2022, in Washington.
Image Source: AP Photo/Mike Stewart, Nathan Howard

for Trump’s agenda will drive Republican turnout. “You’re seeing a lot of people very inspired by President Trump,” Jack said,



describing loyalty to the former president as a powerful motivator. Across Pennsylvania Avenue, Underwood is focused on recruiting

candidates with deep community ties, echoing the formula that helped Democrats flip dozens of seats eight years ago. A registered nurse who first won office in 2018, she said the goal is to elevate “ordinary Americans” who contrast sharply with what she calls “MAGA extremism.” Both parties see dozens of districts as competitive, from the Midwest to the Southwest, even as redistricting creates uncertainty. Analysts say recent special elections show Democratic gains similar to those seen ahead of the 2018 midterms, raising the stakes for a contest that could once again reshape Washington’s balance of power.



Photo: Goalscorer Erling Haaland (right) and Phil Foden show their delight after Manchester City take a first-half lead

Image Source: Malcolm Fell / Focus Images Ltd / Shutterstock

Haaland Delivers Again

City grind out key away win

Julian Alvez

Manchester City continued their title push with a controlled and hard-fought victory over Crystal Palace, powered by goals from Erling Haaland and Phil Foden, just days after their dramatic Champions League triumph in Madrid. The win moved Pep Guardiola’s side back within two points of Premier League leaders Arsenal, underlining their momentum at a crucial stage of the season. Palace, buoyed by European success and roared on at Selhurst Park, made City work throughout a tense first half. The hosts came close through Adam Wharton, whose long-range effort struck the post, while City were largely held in check by a disciplined defensive setup.

The breakthrough arrived when Haaland punished a brief lapse in concentration, rising to head home a precise cross from Matheus Nunes. Palace continued to threaten after the break, but City’s composure told. Foden, watched by England manager Thomas Tuchel, drilled in a superb strike from outside the box to double the lead and underline his rich run of form. Haaland sealed the result late from the penalty spot after Dean Henderson brought down Savinho, taking his league tally to 17 goals. For Guardiola, it was a satisfying response against the manager who denied him silverware last season, and another reminder that City remain relentless contenders in the title race.

Dick Van Dyke Turns 100

A century of laughter, dance, and timeless charm

Charles Lewis

Beloved actor and entertainer Dick Van Dyke celebrated his 100th birthday this weekend, capping a career that has stretched nearly eight decades and helped define American comedy and family entertainment. The milestone is being marked with nationwide screenings of a new documentary, “Dick Van Dyke: 100th Celebration,” as fans revisit a body of work that includes “The Dick Van Dyke Show,” “Mary Poppins,” and “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.” Van Dyke, born in 1925 in West Plains, Missouri, has long said he wanted to make films his children could watch, a goal that shaped his most enduring roles. Over the years, he collected four Primetime

Emmy Awards, a Tony Award, and a Grammy, and he was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 1995. He also became the oldest Daytime Emmy winner last year for a guest role on “Days of Our Lives.” Now, reflecting on



Photo : Dick Van Dyke

Image Source : Online

life at triple digits, Van Dyke remains characteristically upbeat. “I still try to dance,” he said, even as he acknowledged that movement isn’t as easy as it once was.

Who Owns the Movies?

Netflix and Paramount battle for Warner Bros



Photos: Netflix and Paramount battle for Warner Bros
Image Source: Getty Images / BBC

Nassr Al Shams

Hollywood’s fragile recovery has been jolted again as the battle over Warner Bros threatens to upend one of the film industry’s most storied studios. Creative workers describe the looming sale as a “nightmare,” warning that whether the buyer is Netflix or Paramount Skydance, the outcome likely means fewer jobs and fewer opportunities in an already shrinking industry.

HIGHLIGHT

● Warner Bros faces breakup or sale amid industry slump

● Netflix and Paramount Skydance emerge as rival bidders

● Film workers warn of job losses and fewer buyers for projects

The 102-year-old studio, known for classics from Casablanca to Harry Potter, has struggled amid a historic

production slowdown following the pandemic and labor strikes. Interviews with actors, producers and crew members reveal deep anxiety over losing yet another major buyer of film and television projects. Many fear that a Netflix takeover could accelerate the decline of movie theaters, while Paramount’s bid has drawn scrutiny over ties to billionaire backers and political influence. Anger has focused on Warner Bros Discovery CEO David Zaslav, who critics accuse of gutting the company through aggressive cost-cutting since taking over in 2022. While the company disputes claims that its creative legacy has been sacrificed, workers say consolidation has left Hollywood with fewer places to sell ideas and build careers. As tourists still stroll the Burbank backlot, those behind the scenes brace for more upheaval. For many, the sale underscores a sobering reality: Hollywood’s future may be shaped less by storytelling than by balance sheets and billionaires.

End of Cenation

John Cena’s farewell closes a defining WWE era

Adrian Smith

After more than 23 years at the center of professional wrestling, John Cena officially stepped away from the ring, closing one of the most influential chapters in WWE history. His

HIGHLIGHT

● The Cenation Era officially comes to a close

● John Cena wrestles his final match after 23 years

● Cena exits as a 17-time world champion

● Fans and peers honor a generational icon

retirement marks not just the end of a career, but the conclusion of an era that shaped a generation of fans who grew up believing in “Never Give Up.” Cena’s journey began in 2002 with his now-legendary “Ruthless

Aggression” debut and evolved into a run defined by longevity, resilience and unmatched consistency. From the “Doctor of Thuganomics” to the face of WWE, he remained the company’s cornerstone through shifting eras, earning a record-setting 17 world championships along the way. His final match took place last night at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C., where Cena faced Gunther. Though he did not leave victorious, he fought until the final bell, absorbing the moment as fellow wrestlers surrounded the ring in tribute. The crowd responded with emotion, delivering one last salute, one last “You Can’t See Me,” and one final celebration of a career built on loyalty and respect. Beyond championships, Cena’s influence extended into film, philanthropy and global representation, always rooted in wrestling. As the arena dimmed, the message was clear: this was not defeat, but closure. The Cenation Era has ended, but its impact will endure.



Photo: John Cena takes his final bow, after last ever WWE match.
Image Source: WWE / Online