



Address:

2045 Brown Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
Phone: 847-859-9606

Executive Council Members:

- Abdullah Mahmud Shibly (Imam)
- Muhammad Saiduzzaman (President)
- Zafar Ahmed (Vice President)
- Enamul Karim (Treasurer)
- Mohiuddin Ahamed
- Shariful Islam
- Mosaddeque Hossain
- Osman Ahmed

Resident Scholar:

- Abul Fatah Muniruzzaman

Inside this issue:

FROM THE SEERAH OF
OUR PROPHET (PBUH) **2**

RAMADAN INSERT **3**

NAMES OF ALLAH (SWT) **5**

MY REFLECTIONS AT THE
154TH ANNUAL BACCA-
LAUREATE SERVICE **5**

Dar-us-Sunnah (DUS) Masjid and Community Center Newsletter

ANNUAL OUTDOOR PROGRAM ON 7TH JULY 2012 @ TWIGG'S PARK, EVANSTON, IL!!!

DAR-US-SUNNAH HOSTS YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING DINNER



On the 7th of April 2012, DUS hosted its 7th annual fundraising dinner at the Holiday Inn in Skokie, IL. Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah (SWT), the event was a success both in terms of attendance as well in the amount of fund raised in one night. The event began around 7 PM. In attendance were approximately 400 guests. Tickets to the event were priced at \$50 per adult. The master of ceremony for the night was our beloved brother Mohammed Chowdhury. The program opened with recitation (with translation) from the Holy Quran (63:9-11) by Sajid Ahmed. This was followed by a welcome note by the President of Dar-us-Sunnah, Brother Muhammad Saiduzzaman. In his note he highlighted that fundraising is merely an excuse – an excuse to build in the name of Allah (SWT). Brother Osman Ahmed spoke next and recounted

numerous examples of sacrifice from various members of the community in the years past. He also appealed to all in attendance to make a pledge to not only donate our funds for DUS, but also to donate our time to DUS.

The key note address of the event was given by Hafiz Dr. Kamran Riaz. The theme of his talk was "Preservation and Survival of the Muslim Culture." In his address he pointed out that Muslims all over the world pray in exactly the same way as was done by our Prophet (PBUH). The preservation of the Muslim culture has been successfully done via the preservation of Prophetic traditions or Sunnah such as greeting each other with a hand shake using our right hand even if we are left handed. Dr. Riaz compared the Muslim culture to ice cream – multiple flavors but the same ice cream in principle. Among the countless blessings bestowed upon

Muslims by Allah (SWT), Hafiz Kamran highlighted the following three: (1) we form rows during prayers like that formed by Angels; (2) the entire Earth was made as a Masjid so that we can pray anywhere; and (3) dust was made pure for us to perform ablution (Tayammum). On a final note, Dr. Riaz reminded us that Masjid is that special place where we congregate not only for prayers but also to find inner comfort and peace. During the time of the Prophet (PBUH) the Masjid was also a place of learning, politics, entertainment, poetry, and fun as long as it was not time for prayer.

The fundraiser for the event was Sheikh Hasan Abu Nar, Professor Emeritus of the American Islamic University in Fairfield, VA and Principal of Dar-ul-Uloom in New York.

Dr. Abu Nar reminded us that we arrive in this world naked and crying while everyone around us is laughing. If one is wise, he will do those deeds in this world which will allow him to leave the world laughing while everyone around him is crying.

[continued on page 2]

Two sentences we Muslims believe in and repeatedly say everyday: no god but Allah (SWT) and Muhammad (PBUH) is His messenger. As Islam is the religion of knowledge and science, as Islam's book, the Quran, started its revelation with the word "recite/read", and as Islam created one of the greatest civilizations on earth, these two sentences of the Islamic Shahadah or testimony of faith require us as Muslims and as human beings to empower ourselves with the needed knowledge to say them as they should be said.

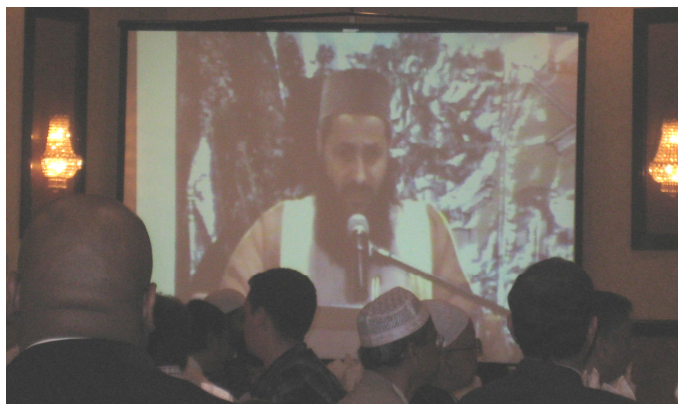
The first and foremost thing to recognize is we must learn the Quranic Arabic. I did not say Arabic, but the Quranic Arabic because Quran's Arabic is the highest level of literature that cannot be translated accurately no matter how much effort is dedicated to transfer the meanings of both the Quran and the Sunnah.

When we say no god but Allah (SWT), it means that we declare that we are going to learn the book of Allah (SWT), to recite it as Muhammad (PBUH) and the first three generations of Muslims did. There are a lot of books of tafseer (interpretation), the briefest of which is Aljalahain, written in the tenth lunar century by Jalaludin As-suyuti in Egypt. Obviously, the sciences of Quran are endless but this is a good serious start.

When we say Muhammad (PBUH) is His messenger, it means that we are going to live according to the life of our Prophet (PBUH). To live that life, we have to first know it. The Sunnah of Muhammad (PBUH) is meticulously documented in the books of Sihah (the authentic). The first of which is Sahih Bukhari, which was written in the third lunar century and contains around five thousand hadith or narration on the life of the Prophet (PBUH). Again the science of Sunnah is similarly huge, but any book of authentic hadith is a good start.

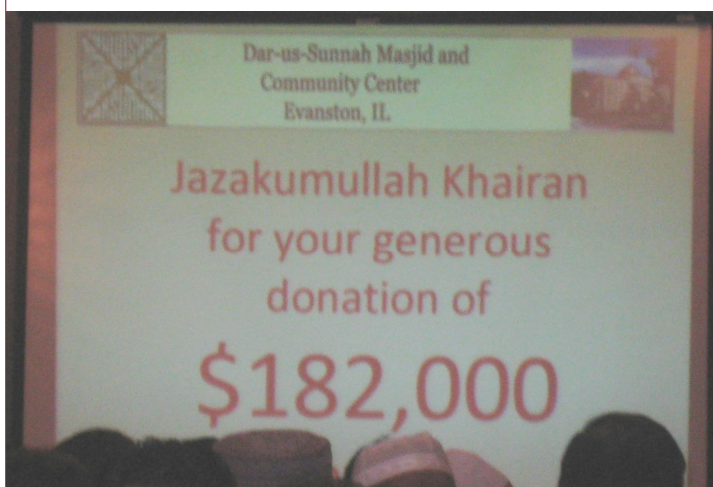
Reciting a section of Quran and Hadith every day is a must if we Muslims truly say La Ilaha Illallah, Muhammadun Rasulullah. We should mean what we say!

[continued from page 1]



Sheikh Hasan Abu Nar getting the audience ready to open up their hearts and wallets.

He also pointed out that all Masajid are the House of Allah (SWT) and to him alone do they belong – they do not belong to any particular community such as African, Arab, or Bangladeshi. According to a Hadith, if we fear Allah (SWT) like we fear poverty, then we will enter Paradise. Before proceeding to raise the target amount of \$250,000, Sheikh Hasan Abu Nar reminded us that those of us who own houses never need motivational reminders from the Imam to renovate it. However, to renovate the House of Allah (SWT), we need repeated reminders and we still bring what's left over. Alhamdulillah, by the Mercy of Allah (SWT) and through the efforts of Dr. Abu Nar, over \$180,000 was pledged at the event. In my humble opinion, he would have taken us to our target if he was allowed additional time to complete his task. Brother Saiduzaman gave his thanks to everyone and requested Sheikh Abu Nar to make Dua for all of us. The program concluded with a full course sit down dinner at 10:15 PM.



WELCOME RAMADAN — ABDULLAH MAHMUD

The month of Ramadan is a holy month in which Allah (swt) has given us a chance to redeem ourselves. It is a month of Amnesty and Sabr, and a month in which we will receive more Hasanaat (rewards) for the good deeds we commit. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said whoever fasts in the month of Ramadan with belief and sincerity will be forgiven of all previous sins (Bukhari and Al-Muslim). The word Ramadan comes from the root word Ramd which means to burn something to ashes. This symbolizes that one receives the opportunity to burn all their sins and renew their faith in this blessed month. Allah (swt) has made fasting in Ramadan obligatory for our Ummah: the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as well as for all the other Ummahs preceding us. Allah (swt) says in the Quran "O Muslims! Fasting has been made obligatory for you in the same way as it was made obligatory for Ummahs before you. (Al-Quran 2:83)

It is important for us to prepare for the month of Ramadan beforehand so that we are ready to go when the time comes and it is best to make preparations with our family. A couple things we should get done or do to prepare are:

- 1) Fulfill any responsibilities including attending social events.
- 2) Treat any sicknesses we may have.
- 3) Learn the Quran with meaning and learn to recite with Tajweed.
- 4) Familiarize ourselves with any rules or regulations of Ramadan and memorize certain duas and niyyahs necessary for this month.
- 5) Plan to finish reading the whole Quran in the month.
- 6) Set goals such as reading a certain portion of the Quran a day or memorizing a certain number of surahs for the kids in house.
- 7) Men should plan accordingly to pray or try to pray all 5 daily prayers and Taraweeh in the Mosque.
- 8) Make a note of how much gold, silver, or money you are capable of giving away to charity and Zakaat.
- 9) Make plans for the most important night: Laylatul Qadr.
- 10) Be prepared to avoid unnecessary talking.
- 11) Prepare a daily schedule from Fajr to Isha so that you can keep track of what you are doing every hour and be less likely to waste time.
- 12) Be prepared to not harm anyone by tongue or by hand or think lowly of anyone.

This holy month of Ramadan is one of the most important months because it is a month in which all the holy books were revealed to the prophets. It is also a month in which important events took place.

- 1) On the 1st of Ramadan Allah (swt) revealed Sahifah on Prophet Ibrahim (AS).
- 2) On the 6th, the Torah was revealed to Prophet Musa (AS).
- 3) On the 13th of Ramadan Allah (swt) revealed Injeel to Prophet Isa (AS).

- 4) On the 24th of Ramadan, the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
- 5) The Battle of Badr took place on the 17th of Ramadan.
- 6) On the 18th, the book Zabur was revealed to Prophet Dawood (AS).
- 7) Laylat-Al-Qadr is a night in the month of Ramadan which is better than a thousand months.

Finally, we ask Allah (swt) to give us the strength for more Ibadah and worship. Ameen.

WHAT RAMADAN TEACHES US — UMAMA MAHMUD

As we all know, the holy month of Ramadan is a month in which the Quran was revealed. The Quran was revealed as a way to guide Muslims into seeking the righteous path. It is a source of guidance for Muslims to follow throughout their life. The Quran itself allows us all to take the time to cleanse and purify our hearts. It is something that mankind has been blessed with and it teaches us how to carry ourselves in many different aspects of our lives.

Ramadan is a month that helps us to achieve the same purpose of purification that the Quran helps us reach. It is the month where we are all given the opportunity to reflect on our character and faith. By eliminating one of the common desires: the desire of satisfying hunger, we are all able to train ourselves to eliminate all kinds of weaknesses and desires within ourselves. Since Ramadan allows us to face a bit of the hunger and hardship of those who are less fortunate, it teaches us to be grateful for what Allah has blessed us with. Each individual has different strengths and weaknesses. What Ramadan teaches each individual varies from person to person. Ramadan helps us all to work on eliminating our weaknesses and raising our strengths.

In order to gain the best out of the holy month, one must not only withstand food and drink from dawn till sunset, but be able to abstain from anything that is prohibited from doing during the fast. By following the guidelines of the fast, one will be able to achieve the goal of improving oneself as an individual and as one who submits to Allah. Abu Huraira related that the Prophet said: If a person does not avoid false talk and false conduct during Siyam, then Allah does not care if he abstains from food and drink (Bukhari, Muslim).

The extent to which Ramadan teaches us is great and it is important to understand the greatness of this blessed month so that we all may use this time of year more seriously. To be able to answer the question, "what has Ramadan taught me?" is a clear indication of reflecting upon our faith. By asking ourselves this question, we will be able to follow the guidelines of this month carefully, have our fast accepted and be able to improve ourselves to the highest extent Inshallah.



Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid & Community Center

2045 Brown Ave. Evanston, IL 60201

Ramadan 1433

Date	Day	Hijri	Fajr	Fajr Iqama	Sunrise	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha	Isha Iqama
19	THU	Sha'ban 29	3:54	4:45	5:32	1:02	6:07	8:23	9:58	10:15
20	FRI	Ramadan 1	3:55	4:15	5:33	1:02	6:07	8:22	9:57	10:15
21	SAT	2	3:56	4:15	5:34	1:02	6:06	8:21	9:56	10:15
22	SUN	3	3:58	4:15	5:35	1:02	6:06	8:20	9:54	10:15
23	MON	4	3:59	4:15	5:36	1:02	6:05	8:19	9:53	10:15
24	TUE	5	4:01	4:15	5:37	1:02	6:05	8:18	9:52	10:15
25	WED	6	4:02	4:15	5:38	1:02	6:04	8:17	9:50	10:15
26	THU	7	4:03	4:15	5:39	1:02	6:04	8:16	9:49	10:15
27	FRI	8	4:05	4:25	5:40	1:02	6:03	8:15	9:47	10:00
28	SAT	9	4:06	4:25	5:41	1:02	6:03	8:14	9:46	10:00
29	SUN	10	4:08	4:25	5:42	1:02	6:02	8:13	9:44	10:00
30	MON	11	4:09	4:25	5:43	1:02	6:01	8:12	9:43	10:00
31	TUE	12	4:10	4:25	5:44	1:02	6:01	8:11	9:41	10:00
1	WED	13	4:12	4:25	5:45	13:02	6:00	8:10	9:40	10:00
2	THU	14	4:13	4:25	5:46	13:02	5:59	8:09	9:38	10:00
3	FRI	15	4:15	4:35	5:47	13:02	5:58	8:07	9:37	9:45
4	SAT	16	4:16	4:35	5:48	13:02	5:58	8:06	9:35	9:45
5	SUN	17	4:18	4:35	5:49	13:02	5:57	8:05	9:33	9:45
6	MON	18	4:19	4:35	5:50	13:02	5:56	8:04	9:32	9:45
7	TUE	19	4:21	4:35	5:51	13:01	5:55	8:02	9:30	9:45
8	WED	20	4:22	4:35	5:52	13:01	5:54	8:01	9:28	9:45
9	THU	21	4:23	4:35	5:53	13:01	5:54	8:00	9:26	9:45
10	FRI	22	4:25	4:45	5:54	13:01	5:53	7:58	9:25	9:30
11	SAT	23	4:26	4:45	5:55	13:01	5:52	7:57	9:23	9:30
12	SUN	24	4:28	4:45	5:56	13:01	5:51	7:56	9:21	9:30
13	MON	25	4:29	4:45	5:57	13:00	5:50	7:54	9:19	9:30
14	TUE	26	4:31	4:45	5:58	13:00	5:49	7:53	9:18	9:30
15	WED	27	4:32	4:45	5:59	13:00	5:48	7:51	9:16	9:30
16	THU	28	4:33	4:45	6:00	13:00	5:47	7:50	9:14	9:30
17	FRI	29	4:35	4:55	6:01	13:00	5:46	7:48	9:12	9:30
18	SAT	30	4:36	4:55	6:02	12:59	5:45	7:47	9:10	9:30
19	SUN	Shawwal 1	4:38	5:30	6:03	12:59	5:44	7:45	9:08	9:30
20	MON	2	4:39	5:30	6:04	12:59	5:43	7:44	9:06	9:30

Dua for Suhur:

وَيَصُومُ غَدٍ نَوَيْتَ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ

I intend to keep the fast for tomorrow in the month of Ramadan. Abu Dawud

Dua for Iftar:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صُمْتُ وَلَكَ آمَنْتُ [وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ] وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

O Allah! I fasted for You and I believe in You [and I put my trust in You] and I break my fast with Your sustenance. Abu Dawud

Assalamu Alaikum, Shalom, and Peace.

God says in the Holy Quran,

كَتَبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْقِتَالُ وَهُوَ كُرْهٌ لَّكُمْ وَعَسَى أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا
وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَعَسَى أَنْ تُحِبُّوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ شَرٌّ لَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ
وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣١﴾

“But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you. And God knows, while you know not. (2:216)”

This verse has defined my four years at Northwestern by providing me with a source of guidance in every single thing I do. Before I started my freshman year at Northwestern, I was told by a mentor, “The best way to predict one’s future is to invent it.” And for me, my religion has been my direction, playing a huge role in shaping my college experience.

I grew up in a neighborhood full of practicing Muslims—ones who would regularly pray at the mosque down the street, ones who proudly donned the hijab everywhere they went, ones who gathered along with the 10,000 other Muslims on the Eid holiday to celebrate. I remember wondering, just before I started college, if I could find a community at Northwestern similar in nature to the family of spiritual people that was unique to my hometown.

I did.

And it wasn’t just through the Muslim community that I was, and still am, so heavily involved with. It was a family I met through the other religious groups on campus that were trying to build an open and comfortable space for their constituents. It was a family I met through the Living Wage campaign; it was a family I met through the Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights.

These are very different types of families, but each one introduced me to a wider network of Northwestern students who were *all* spiritual in their

own unique way. These are the students who encouraged me to challenge myself and my ways of thinking. Before college, I was never expected to think critically about my religion. But after my interactions with Northwestern’s diverse community, I learned how to think in depth about my religion and gained the special confidence in my Muslim identity.

One challenge facing today’s Muslim community is that many of us have a good amount of sacred knowledge, but we do not always know how to use that knowledge for the purpose of personal growth. However, I can say with sure honesty that my experiences in the past four years have helped me grow spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. It isn’t only through the weekly programs put on by the Muslim-Cultural Student Association, or the Friday prayers that bring in incredible speakers, but rather through the conversations I have had with many of you—students, professors, chaplains, and family members.

I want to thank you all for helping me realize that spiritual development is a continuous process that every person does for herself, even within a diverse society. True personal growth comes from reaching out to people with various faiths and opinions, and embracing one’s similarities and differences to make oneself a better person.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said,

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يُحِبَّ لِأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ

“None of you believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.” We have been part of a Northwestern family in which everyone looks out for each other, and for many of us, this family has led us to find relief and comfort on our campus. These feelings should extend beyond our campus, and we should make every effort to create positivity and brotherhood and sisterhood in every community we reach in the future.

I wish you all luck in your future endeavors, and once again, congratulations.

[Editor’s Note: This speech was given by Nadia Ahmed at the 154th Annual Baccalaureate Service at Northwestern University, as part of an interfaith activity for the graduating class on June 14, 2012. We congratulate Nadia on her graduation and wish her success in all her future endeavors.]

NAMES OF ALLAH (SWT) - SAJID AHMED

The world is a prison to the believers, as the Prophet Muhammad (S) said. Though the only escape from the struggles of this Dunya is with Allah (SWT) in the gardens of Paradise, the believer can take respite in the fact that Allah (SWT), The All-Wise, The All-Powerful knows the occurrences of His creation and has pre-destined what will happen, whether good or bad, given humanity’s choices of action. The name of Allah (SWT), Al-Qadir, refers to Allah’s definite and ultimate will: whatever He chooses, goes as planned. He who is able to do anything in the way He wills has complete control of all things that happen, be it a misfortune upon the obedient believer or a material blessing upon the one stuck in the material world. Qadr, roughly translated as destiny, refers to all that happens, good or bad. The name Al-Qadir refers to Allah’s (SWT) supreme ability to control it and everything else, hence leading to many other glorious names of Allah (SWT). The universe is a manifestation of the ultimate power of Allah (SWT), reflecting all His glorious traits; it should be inherent in the believer to observe and praise Allah (SWT) for all the miracles that one can clearly perceive around us.

Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid & Community Center

Upcoming events:

2012/07/07: Outdoor Program @ 11:00 AM—Twigg's Park, Evanston, IL

2012/07/20: 1st of Ramadan 1433 A H [subject to moon sighting]

2012/08/19: Eid-ul-Fitr Prayer @ 09:00 AM and 10:30 AM [subject to moon sighting]

2012/09/01: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM

2012/09/15: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM

To donate, please visit:

<http://www.darussunnah.org/>

Start Date	Fajr	Zuhr	Jummah	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
7/1/2012	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:30 PM	Sunset	10:25 PM
7/15/2012	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:30 PM	Sunset	10:15 PM
7/20/2012	4:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:15 PM
7/27/2012	4:25 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:00 PM
8/1/2012	4:25 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:00 PM
8/3/2012	4:35 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	9:45 PM
8/10/2012	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:00 PM	Sunset	9:30 PM
8/19/2012	5:30 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:30 PM
8/26/2012	5:30 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:15 PM
9/1/2012	5:30 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:15 PM
9/9/2012	5:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:30 PM	Sunset	8:45 PM
9/16/2012	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:30 PM	Sunset	8:30 PM
9/23/2012	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:15 PM	Sunset	8:15 PM

Disclaimer:

Barta (News) is a quarterly publication of Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center in Evanston, Illinois, USA. The views and opinions expressed by the contents of this publication or its commercial sponsors do not necessarily reflect the policies and principles of Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center. Furthermore, Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center reserves all publishing rights of the material and may choose to terminate all agreements or part thereof at any time without any notification to anyone. Unauthorized use and/or duplication of any material in this publication by anyone is strictly prohibited without the written and official consent of Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center.

Editorial staff: Javed Iqbal / Ishtiaq Ahmed / Ashik Rahman

Please write to us to provide feedback or to submit articles for possible inclusion in future issues of Barta.

The email address is ashikr@hotmail.com.