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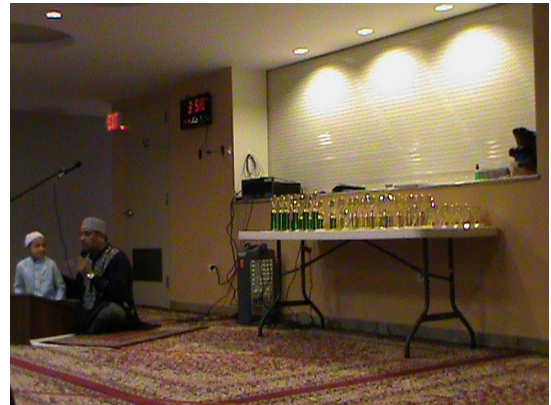
Dar-us-Sunnah (DUS) Masjid and Community Center Newsletter

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER ON 6TH APRIL 2013 @ HOLIDAY INN, SKOKIE, IL!!!

RECAP OF 22ND ANNUAL SEERAT PROGRAM ON 16TH DECEMBER 2012

The program began at 4 PM when Brother Saiduzzaman welcomed everyone in attendance. He also reminded every parent/grandparent to not miss out on the opportunity to train our youngsters as this act could be our personal ticket to Jan-nah.

The responsibility of the overall co-ordination of the evening's program



fell on the capable shoulders of Brother Zafar. He began with the children's recitation program. Group I (pre-K and KG) had to recite Surah Ikhlas. The first 5 verses of Surah Bayyinah was recited by participants in Group II (grades I and II) and Group III (Grades III to V). At this point in the program, we were all treated to a special children's combined chorus presentation. [[The en-](#)

[tire footage of the chorus can be viewed by clicking this link.](#)] This was followed by the Islamic Knowledge competition for participants of Group IV (Grades VI to VIII). Brother Ashik coordinated this written event where every participant

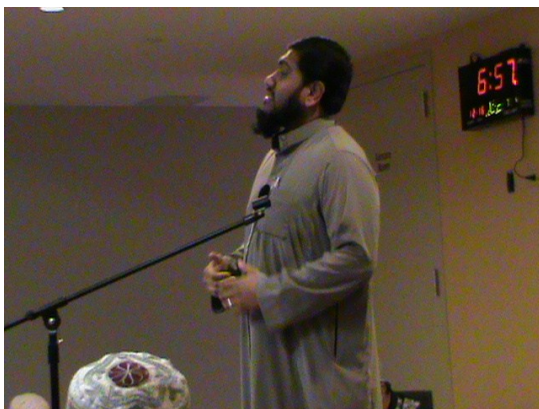


was provided an index card with 5 randomly selected questions picked from a study sheet of 170 questions. Five minutes were allotted to complete and turn in the index cards. The quiz pro-

gram was followed by a speech contest for Group V (Grades IX to XII and college).

Before the keynote speaker was invited to address the gathering, Brother Tabriz took a few minutes to remind us of etiquettes in mixed gatherings. Our keynote

speaker of the program was none other than Brother Muhammad Shirazi of Islamic Oasis. Our speaker reminded us in his talk



about the roles and sacrifices of the women of Islam in its early days. He brought to our attention that during the civil war of Muslims, it was Ayesha (RA) who spoke to the companions of the Prophet (SAW) to fight along with Zubair and his army. He stressed the need for all of us to determine for ourselves if we are following culture or religion – for the former leads us astray while the latter keeps us rightly guided. As an example of what following culture can lead to, Brother Shirazi reminded us the while the culture of Jahiliyah promoted



a father to murder his three year old daughter, the culture of today allows one to mass murder five year old boys and

girls in our schools. Among his concluding remarks, our speaker reminded us that our beloved Prophet (SAW) had been sent to us to rid the society of the ills it had been infected with and thus only by holding to his Sunnah can we remain rightly guided.

The next part of the evening was the highly anticipated award distribution ceremony. Brother Mo-



saddeque coordinated the award distribution and Imam Shibly handed out the trophies. Special trophies were awarded to all members of the chorus presentation provided they attended the rehearsals. [[The entire footage of the award distribution ceremony can be viewed using this link.](#)] At his point, Brother Zafar thanked everyone and their guardians for making the children's events successful. He also reminded us that events such as these have a price tag and urged everyone to donate generously to cover the expenses associated with the event.

In his concluding remarks, Brother Saiduzzaman reminded us that on this day in 1971, several Bangladeshis sacrificed their lives to liberate our mother land from injustice. He requested special dua for our heroes. The event was concluded at 8:30 PM with a Dua from our Imam and dinner was served shortly thereafter.



[Editor's Note: If you have not already done so, please visit <http://www.darussunnah.org/> to donate generously towards the expenses of this event—Jazakallah]

Today, my 4th grade son showed me a diagram of the human life cycle from his science book: a description of the processes of birth, growth, reproduction, and death. I asked him where I was in the cycle. He laughed and wouldn't answer my question. I started reflecting on the 3rd stage of life--reproduction. In this stage, not only are children born, but generally, most accomplishments are achieved. Parents are responsible for molding, teaching and guiding their small precious ones to survive in this world. It is very hard to care for any new arrival, but if a baby is mentally challenged, the subsequent hardships can be unimaginable and very distressful.

Life is the most blessed thing God gave to us. As human beings, we are the 'Ashraf al-Makhlūqat,' or 'the most honorable of all creation'. To live up to that standard, all we have to do is fulfill our purpose in life, which is to worship our Lord. One can achieve his or her goal simply by following what is 'Halal' (permissible), avoiding what is 'Haram' (prohibited), and completing our obligations, thus earning the favor of our God. But for families who are devout in their religion but are affected by mental illness, it is often easy to question whether the mental sickness is actually a gift of God. In reality, it is all a test from God—an encouragement to the families to stay patient and God-fearing no matter what.

There are different types of mental disorders. Some are severe; others are not. Some are easy to treat; others are very difficult. Some stay for a short duration; others may persist for a lifetime. These disorders may be caused by genetic factors, neurochemical imbalance in the brain, learned behaviors, trauma, and early life physical and emotional deprivation, to name a few.

Mental disorders are generally treated, after proper assessment and diagnosis by medication, by psychotherapy and counseling. There are many different kinds of mental disorders, including schizophrenia; mood disorders like mania and depression; anxiety disorders like simple phobias, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder; panic disorder; eating disorders; personality disorders; sexual perversion; aggression; autism; attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder; drug abuse; addictions; mental retardation; and learning and development disorders, among others. Like physical disorders, mental disorders also hurt.

One person affected by a mental disorder can affect an entire family. Sometimes, there is a

cyclical pattern in which the disordered person threatens the safety of the family, who suffers from heartbreaking stress and fear, but is not quite sure what to do because the mentally sick individual is still a family member. Sometimes, the family, neighbors, and community are put in danger because of this one individual. So the family must seek help from, the community, school administrators, social workers, counselors, probation officers, and anyone else who can be of assistance. Oftentimes, the best solution is to provide the individual with a structured shelter—an institution with properly trained professionals.

Last month, our nation was shaken with sadness and fear when Adam Lanza, a 20-year-old young man from Connecticut, killed twenty innocent children and seven adults, including himself, in a school. His mother was his first victim. As a mother of four children, three of whom are still in grade school, I felt very vulnerable when I heard this news. I was upset that a person can be so familiar with the use of readily available firearms and had a young mind so full of aggression and hatred. I was upset that a mother lived in so much fear that she felt the need to keep multiple dangerous weapons at home. In any broken family such as this one, both father and mother must play a role in raising the children. But the big question is: how can the community help in this type of situation?

Ultimately, the main thing is good parenting, one of the hardest jobs of human beings. Parents should be mature enough to help their children. According to Erik Erikson, in the stages of Human Development, children establish a sense of basic trust versus a sense of mistrust, by the end of their first year. To establish trust, the child's basic needs have to be taken care of and the child should rely on the caregiver in a fairly consistent manner. It is true that to raise your children, you need a village: that is, the cooperation of everybody, including family, friends, relatives and teachers. Parents are still the primary caregivers—they have to take care of their children with love and affection, teach them responsibility and accountability, find out if the children have any mental issues, and be willing to take professional advice if needed. Good parenting also depends on a good selection of a spouse, which is the main base of a family. Spouses should be pious, loving and responsible. The husband and wife should work as a team to raise their children, with mutual respect, counsel and sympathy to each other.

Now, as concerned citizens, we are waiting to see how our President, Barack Obama, will handle the Connecticut tragedy, addressing proper gun control laws, mental health issues, school safety, and safety for all citizens. It is difficult to raise a child with a mental disorder, but it is important to stay patient at all times.

Over everything, as a faithful servant of God, I ask, Oh God, you are the most powerful. Please don't test us more than we can bear. With your Mercy, please forgive us and bless all of us. Ameen.

AL-AWWAL WAL AAKHIR — SAJID AHMED

"He is the First and the Last, the Ascendant and the Intimate, and He is, of all things, Knowing."
(Al-Hadeed, 3)

Literally, these names of Allah translate to "The First" and "The Last" respectively. "Al-Awwal" tells us that Allah (SWT) was there before everything, and thus had to be the source of everything. Also, as the Gregorian New Year comes once again, we have an opportunity to remember this magnificent name of Allah and reflect upon it. We remember that, like everything in this material life, time is fleeting. Our duty is to take advantage of however much of it we have; in the end, Allah will still be there to hold us to account, because he is also Al-Aakhir, the Last.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION — WARIF AHMED

My New Year's Resolution for 2013 is to be a good Muslim, help others, be a good person, and be nice to other people.

[Editor's Note: Let us all attempt to follow along with Warif in becoming good Muslims in 2013 Inshallah.]

Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid & Community Center

Upcoming events:

2013/01/05: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM

2013/01/19: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM

2013/02/02: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM

2013/02/16: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM

2013/03/02: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM

2013/03/16: 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	Jumma	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
1/1/2013	6:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	3:15 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
1/13/2013	6:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	3:30 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
1/20/2013	6:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	3:45 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
2/1/2013	6:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	3:45 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
2/3/2013	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	4:00 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
2/17/2013	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	4:15 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
2/24/2013	5:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	4:15 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
3/1/2013	5:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	4:15 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
3/11/2013	6:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:30 PM	Sunset	9:00 PM
3/17/2013	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:00 PM
3/24/2013	5:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:00 PM

Disclaimer:

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