



**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

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

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

The evening's programs began immediately after Maghrib prayers at 8:00 PM with beautiful recitation from the Holy Quran (35:29-34) along with its translation by our very own Hafiz Abdullah Marzuk. He is a graduate of IIE, Elgin, IL and is a sophomore at Niles North High School. After that, Brother Muhammad Saiduzzaman, the president



of Dar-us-Sunnah, welcomed all in attendance. He pointed out that everyone in the audience had a choice - and the choice to attend this event was the

one we all made and he thanked all of us for making that choice and being a part of the evening. Brother Saiduzzaman also reminded us that Muslims all over the world are being denied the very same choices that have been granted to all of us by

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**ANNUAL OUTDOOR PROGRAM**

**TWIGG'S PARK, EVANSTON, IL  
(ACROSS FROM DUS)**

**30TH JUNE 2013 (SUNDAY)**

**NOON – 6 PM**

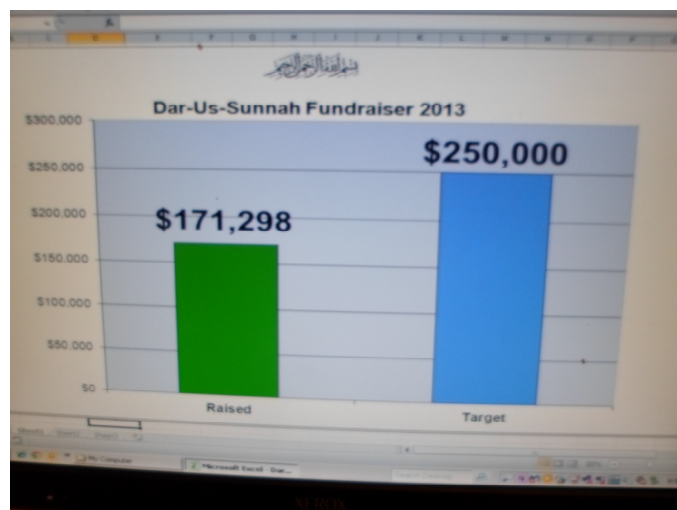
**TAFSEER / BBQ/ GAMES / FUN**

Allah (SWT). After that Brother Osman Ahmed provided us a project update. He began his update with a video presentation prepared by members of the community that highlighted our humble beginnings, our present status, and the need to finish the next phases of the Masjid. The building was purchased for \$800,000 and after spending an additional \$1,200,000 was opened for service in 2010. The time has come for us to move upstairs as the basement is no longer enough for all the activities of the community. Once completed, Dar-us-Sunnah will be able to accommodate a gathering of 800 people In Sha Allah. The cost of completing the next phase of the project was estimated to be \$800,000. Brother Osman broke down the needed funds as follows: (1) raise \$250,000 at the event, (2) raise \$100,000 over Ramadan, (3) raise another \$250,000 at next year's fund raising event (2014), and (4) start the work with the \$200,000 that has already been collected. The goal is to be able to have the entire premise completed prior to Ramadan 2014 In Sha Allah. Finally, he made it very simple for all of us in attendance – purchase 250 Musallahs (prayer rugs) at \$1000 each. At this point in the program, the host of the evening, Brother Ashik Rahman, intro-



duced the key note speaker and fundraiser of the event – Sheikh

Kifah Mustapha. Sh Kifah is the Imam and Associate Director of Mosque Foundation in Bridgeview, IL. He has served the Muslims of Bridgeview, Chicago Land, and USA in numerous capacities over several years and has held several leadership positions and has received multiple awards and recognitions for his service to the Muslim Ummah. He is a prolific speaker and an excellent fund raiser. Sh Kifah began with recitation from Surah Al-Lail. He focused his talk on three points (1) A'ta – invest in Allah (SWT), (2) Taqwa – attain God consciousness, and (3) Husna –



achieve Paradise. In about an hour he was able to melt our hearts and open our wallets and raised over \$170,000 in donations and pledges from those in attendance. He concluded the evening by making Dua for all of us. This was followed by a quick vote of thanks immediately followed by dinner at 9:45 PM.

## COMMUNITY APPEAL!!!

PLEASE CONSIDER PLACING AN  
AD  
IN THE UPCOMING  
RAMADAN PRAYER SCHEDULE

It was past 8 AM. Mrs. Haque was running through the lobby of the Secretariat Building in Dhaka, Bangladesh to enter her officer's room to sign in for work. Once she got there, she was startled when the officer told her that she might be suspended because she was late almost every day. Tears were coming to her eyes, but she controlled herself and replied, "Sir, you can do whatever you want to do. I swallowed the death of my husband. Anything in this world is insignificant to me." The officer was stunned.

Mrs. Haque's morning on each of these days was never easy—she would organize her house, get her kids ready for the day, run to the bus stand a few blocks away, and finally take the bus to her office building.

That morning, when Mrs. Haque reached her desk, she recollected that it was March 25, 1977. That was the day, six years earlier in 1971, when the liberation war of Bangladesh began. She had been the happiest housewife in the world, with an honest husband and seven young children. With the outbreak of the war, her husband was killed in April 1971, and the whole sky crashed upon her head.

Her thoughts were interrupted by the crying of her much younger colleague, Mrs. Rowshan. Mrs. Rowshan could not stop crying, and when Mrs. Haque asked her what was wrong, she replied, "The officer said that his day is ruined by looking at the faces of the widows this morning." Mrs. Haque, a big sister figure to Mrs. Rowshan, consoled her and reminded her with great affection and love that their husbands had sacrificed their lives for the sake of their country, and people should honor them.

Bangladesh is a small South Asian country. It is a pleasant, always green country. It became independent from Pakistan in 1971. The causes of the war were ethnic and linguistic controversies, economic

disparities, political differences, military rules, popular agitation, and cultural nationalism, among others. The father of the nation, Bangobondhu (friend of Bangla), Sheikh Mujibar Rahman, called for freedom and the beginning of an independence movement. Mukti Bahini (liberation army) formed from members of the the Bengali military, Paramilitary, as well as from civilians.

The war for independence lasted almost nine months and approximately three million people sacrificed their lives. There were severe human sufferings. It was one of the most violent wars of the 20th century, with large scale atrocities.

Finally with God's Mercy and India's help the war ended on December 16th, 1971. East Pakistan became Bangladesh and was freed from West Pakistan. The world's map changed on that day.

Countless families, including those of Mrs. Haque and Mrs. Rowshan, suffered because of this war. Their loved ones died. Nobody can pay the prices of these martyrs' lives, and the pain is a lifelong struggle.

I am the youngest of the seven children of Mrs. Haque. I don't remember the face of my father. My mother told me about the incident with her officer and colleague when I grew up. I was surprised that even after so many years; she remembered that officer's words.

Today, it is March 2013. Forty-two years have passed since my father's death. He gave his life for the sake of the country, and the blood of him and other martyrs is sacred. But the oozing pain from the hearts of Mrs. Haque and Mrs. Rowshan continued until their deaths, especially because of the remarks similar to those by that officer. I wish I could go and stand in front of the officer and tell him he is just as terrible as a war criminal. Then the souls of my mother and Mrs. Rowshan may be in peace. May God accept my father and others who gave their lives as martyrs in this war. Ameen.

My father-in-law once recited to me a quote by Sheikh Saadi, the famous Persian poet, in

the Persian language. It can be translated into:

"No better than quarry stone is the Kaaba of Khalil,

The Kaaba of the human heart provides God a seat,

Blessed indeed is the heart that manifests Him,

Known for certain that God resides in all hearts and hence every heart needs to be respected."

#### NAMES OF ALLAH (SWT) - SAJID AHMED

As-Sabur

One of Allah's glorious names is that of As-Sabur. In English, this translates to "the Most Patient One" when regarding Allah. Every one of Allah's (SWT) attributes tells us about an aspect of His character. Since Allah is the Most Patient, we can rest assured that He will be patient with us when we inevitably make mistakes, given that we turn back to Him in the end. We know that there is always the opportunity to turn back, as Allah (SWT) will always be waiting for our return with His infinite patience. We can take this in to practice in our daily lives by remembering that since Allah is so patient with us, we should also make the effort to be patient in our affairs on Earth. We should try our best not to grown irrationally angry or sad or any other extreme of emotion, but retain an even and moderate temperament at all times. In our attempt to bring this attribute of Allah (SWT) into application in our lives, Insha'Allah Allah (SWT) will be pleased with us and be patient with us with whatever errors we may stumble into.



# Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid & Community Center

## Upcoming events:

2013/04/06: Fund Raising Dinner @ 06:00 PM—Holiday Inn, Skokie, IL  
2013/04/20: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM  
2013/05/04: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM  
2013/05/18: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM  
2013/06/01: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM  
2013/06/08: Are You Planning for Hajj Program (English) @ 06:00 PM  
2013/06/15: Welcome Ramadan Program (English) @ 06:00 PM  
2013/06/30: Annual Outdoor Program @ 12:00 PM — Twigg's Park, Evanston, IL

To donate, please visit:

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

Start Date	Fajr	Zuhr	Jummah	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
4/1/2013	5:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:00 PM
4/7/2013	5:30 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:15 PM
4/14/2013	5:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:00 PM	Sunset	9:30 PM
4/28/2013	5:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:00 PM	Sunset	9:45 PM
5/1/2013	5:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:00 PM	Sunset	9:45 PM
5/5/2013	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	9:45 PM
5/12/2013	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:00 PM
5/19/2013	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:15 PM
6/1/2013	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:15 PM
6/9/2013	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:30 PM	Sunset	10:25 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](mailto:ashikr@hotmail.com).