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

Dar-us-Sunnah remembers the tenth anniversary of 9/11 with the rest of Evanston

On the tenth anniversary of 9/11, members of Dar-us-Sunnah remembered and reflected upon the horrific events that occurred on that day ten years ago along with other resi-



A large group gathers outside of Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center Sunday afternoon for the PeaceAble Cities: Evanston 9/11 Walk and Talk. The walk led from Dar-us-Sunnah to the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation at 303 Dodge Avenue. Credit: Philip Downie and Evanston Patch

dents of Evanston. We set up a luncheon for those who

stopped by to take part in the peace walk that started at DUS and end at JRC. Over 500 peo-



Dar-us-Sunnah President Mohamed Saiduzzaman addresses those in attendance Sunday afternoon at the PeaceAble Cities: Evanston 9/11 Walk and Talk. Credit: Philip Downie and Evanston Patch

ple showed up at DUS and were eager to join us in a walk and get to know us better in the process. Brother Saiduzzaman addressed those in attendance prior to the start of the walk. Members gave several tours to the visitors who

wanted to witness the progress we have made in the building



Guests to the interfaith event get a tour of the worship area while a man prays. Credit: Philip Downie and Evanston Patch

thus far and answered questions about DUS and some of the services we plan to provide in the future. All in all, it was a very successful event. The only area of possible improvement would have been to see an increased participation from within the DUS community.

SAVE THE DATE

7th APRIL 2012

DAR-US-SUNNAH

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

HOLIDAY INN, SKOKIE, IL @ 6:00 PM

September 11, 2001 was a tragic day. It was a day when our country was witness to one of the most horrific acts of mass murder in its very history. I was 10 years old at the time, and I was growing up in a predominantly Arab Muslim community. I was in 6th grade in an Islamic school, and I was in my 20-person Social Studies class when I first learned about the incident. I didn't fully understand what had happened until later, when all 600 students from the school were given early dismissal, and suddenly, school was closed for 3 whole weeks. What I had learned was that my neighborhood, because of its large Muslim population, had suddenly become a target. There were mobs that marched through town and tried to break our local mosque, while my friend's grandparents were sitting inside.

I remember feeling terrified, thinking that there was no way this could get better, that my life as a Muslim in Chicago had changed dramatically in the span of a few hours. And it was true; my life had changed. I came of age in these past 10 years, as did thousands of youth all across the U.S. And recently, I learned that my generation has come to be called "Generation 9/11" because of its great emotional impact.

But after every adversity, there comes strength. Over the past 10 years, we have seen how 9/11 has taught us how to stand together. Today, people make more of an effort than ever before to learn about each other's faiths and traditions, and even though I will never forget the woman who rolled down the window of her car, only to point her middle finger at my aunt and yell "Go back to your country," I will also always remember the woman in the library who asked me why I wore the headscarf and what it was that made me feel so attached to my religion.

In fact, with so many people asking the question 'why'- why did this happen? Why is Islam the religion everyone is accusing? What are you thinking? My generation was forced to do our research. We have learned how to think for ourselves when it comes to these world issues, and 9/11, along with all the emotional weight that it carries, has taught us how to become critical thinkers in terms of religion and politics. It has encouraged me, as an American, to learn about my identity as an American-born Muslim Bangladeshi raised in an Arab community. It has forced me to create opinions and think about what kind of future I can see for my country.

And like so many other people, I see a strong future, full of positive change. 9/11 has taught me how to be a leader and stand up for what I believe in. It has taught me the need to be engaged in my surroundings as much as possible, and to try and make a difference in every capacity. For my neighborhood in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, it has demonstrated the need for collaboration and communication between communities. 9/11 has been a social awakening that encourages all Americans to actively reflect on what that day means to them, and work together to con-

front human issues, not necessarily Muslim or American issues, but human issues, including health and immigration.

And in the meantime, we continue to pray for the thousands of people who lost their lives on that day. My heart goes out to all the students who will never see their mothers and fathers and family members again. In their honor, let us move on with the blessed life we have been given to further the dialogue, learn more about each other, and not be afraid to ask 'who, what, or why' because through these questions, we will continue to make a difference in our country. As a good friend of mine said today, let's pledge the next 10 years to peace, prosperity, and love.

[The above speech was delivered by Nadia Ahmed at a commemoration event held at Northwestern University to mark the tenth anniversary of the events of 9/11. The speech was first published in "Student Affairs Publications " and has been reproduced here for our community's benefit. Feel free to visit the site below to get all the speeches that were delivered that day.

<http://www.northwestern.edu/studentaffairs/publications/northwestern-remembers-9-11/index.html>]

First Ten Days Zul Hijjah

"By the dawn, By the ten nights And by the even and the odd." (Quran— 89:1-2)

The virtue of these ten days is confirmed in the Quran that Allah (SWT) swears an oath by them, and swearing an oath by something is suggestive of its importance and great benefit. Ibn Abbas says about the verse, "Remember Allah during the well known days," that it refers to the first ten days of Zul Hijjah. Zul Hijjah (the Month of Hajj) is the 12th month of the Islamic lunar year. It is during this month that the annual pilgrimage to Makkah, known as Hajj, takes place. The actual pilgrimage rites take place between the 8th to 12th days of the month. According to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the first ten days of this month are a special time for devotion. During these days, preparations are underway for those who are undertaking the pilgrimage, and most of the actual pilgrimage rites occur. In particular, the 9th day of the month marks the Day of Arafat, and the 10th day of the month marks the Eid ul Adha (Festival of Sacrifice). Even for those who are not travelling for the pilgrimage, this is a special time to remember Allah (SWT) and spend extra time in devotion and good deeds. There is no day on which Allah frees more people from the hellfire than on the day of Arafah; on this day sins are forgiven, Allah (SWT) becomes closer to his slaves, His Angels boast of the people standing on the plain of Arafah, as they stand, humbly, sacrificing, remembering Allah (SWT) and seeking His forgiveness. This is the day of the Great Pilgrimage; a day of praise for Allah, a day of remembrance and repentance. So fast this day of Arafah and make for yourselves a portion of Quran to read or remembrance to make and seek His forgiveness, in the hope that He will accept it from you and shower you in His mercy, in both this life and the next. And who from us is not in need of this great bounty?

This is the most interesting, joyous, loving, and sacred, sacrificing and patient responsibility a woman has. Everybody feels joy looking at a newborn. I remember the poem, written by the poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam, **Shishu Jadukar**:

তোর সাথে ঘর ভরে এল ফালগুন

সব হেসে খুন হোলো কি জানিস গুন

.....

আমি দিনু তোর হাতে নামের কাঁকণ

Please, read the whole poem and pray for our beloved poet.

Motherhood - consisting of pregnancy, childbirth and raising a child - is the most difficult time for a woman, both physically, emotionally and spiritually. I experienced everything, Alhamdulillah! I am saying Alhamdulillah, because of the countless rewards waiting for me from Allah (SWT) for my hardships, Insha'Allah. We all know the Hadith: One day a man came to Prophet (PBUH) and said, "O Allah's Apostle! Who is more entitled to be treated with the best companionship by me? The prophet (SA) said, "Your mother." The man said "Who is next?" "The Prophet (SA) said, "Your mother." The man further said, "Who is next?" The Prophet (SA) said, "Your mother." The man asked for the fourth time, "Who is next?" The Prophet (SA) said, "Your father."

Now the happiness is not gone, but the great responsibilities came on the shoulders.

I am trying to write my own experiences. As a new mother, primary caregiver, with a lack of child care experience, and in a new environment, it was a very difficult time for me. I tried my best and finally by providing proper care and love, I could

make the bond, the attachment and thus win the trust of my child. The things you need are to calm down, be patient, and get some social support from your husband, parents and relatives.

Next phase: more children, Alhamdulillah! A little more experienced, could handle things better. But, the work load is enormous. One of my friends asked me, "How are you?" I replied, "Both my wrists and ankles are hurting a lot, of course not from arthritis, but from overwork."

Now comes the main challenge: teaching and guiding the children, every day, every moment, and repeatedly.

In a Hadith, I learned, (0-7) years-love the children, (8-14) years-teach them discipline, and (15-up) years - be their friends. Oh my God! Alhamdulillah! I have kids in every group.

Human and jinn are created to worship Allah (SWT). So I am trying my best, to make my children's life full of Ibadat. It starts at Fajr time, waking them up for worship. Then I kept asking them Du'as for waking up from bed, going to washroom, coming back from washroom, before eating, after eating, stepping out from home, getting in the car, entering the Mosque, out from the Mosque, entering the house, going to bed. Besides that, making their habit to say, "Bismillah" in every deed they do.

I tried to take every opportunity I got, to raise them to be a better person, like (0-3) years preschool programs, summer library reading program, soccer practice, weekly Faith class, Quran study, etc.

Jobs are not done yet. Asking them for five times daily prayers, making healthy eating habits, proper and good etiquette, managing problems between siblings, handling and counseling them for things like playing with fire inside home, and finally making a loving,

comfortable and cheerful environment at home.

These enormous responsibilities can never be done by me alone. The father, the teacher, the friends, the family - everybody has their contributions, in raising them. Overall the main thing is Allah's Mercy and Blessings. Without these nothing can be accomplished by anybody.

I am teaching them to go forward, go and touch the sky but have to do everything within the religious boundaries. I am also teaching them to pray for their parents, so that we can be beside them. I am always praying for them. The Quran taught me how to pray for them and they should pray for us. My final goal is to make them righteous, righteous to their Lord and righteous to themselves, so that the world can be benefited from them, Insha'Allah.

In the end, I have to admit that I am very fortunate to be a mother. For those who could not be a mother, I am quoting some verses of the Holy Quran: "To Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He wills. He gives daughters to whom He wills and gives sons to whom He wills or He gives them sons and daughters and He leaves barren whom He wills." (42:49-50).

Our life is nothing but tests and trials. Of course Allah (SWT) is fair. He will give something tremendous to those who are deprived of anything, Insha'Allah. I am always thankful for my mother, for her teachings to me, and am always praying for her forgiveness. May Allah (SWT) accept all the mothers, Ameen.

Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid & Community Center

Upcoming events:

2011/10/01: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM

2011/10/16: Seerat un Nabi Program (English) @ 04:00 PM

2011/11/05: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM — **CANCELLED**

2011/11/06: Eid ul Adha Prayer @ 09:00 AM and 10:30 AM [subject to moon sighting]

2011/11/19: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM

2011/11/20: Humanitarian Day @ 10:00 AM

2011/12/03: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM

2011/12/17: 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
2011/10/01	06:00 AM	01:30 PM	01:15 PM	05:15 PM	SUNSET	08:00 PM
2011/10/03	06:00 AM	01:30 PM	01:15 PM	05:00 PM	SUNSET	08:00 PM
2011/10/10	06:15 AM	01:30 PM	01:15 PM	04:45 PM	SUNSET	08:00 PM
2011/10/17	06:15 AM	01:30 PM	01:15 PM	04:30 PM	SUNSET	08:00 PM
2011/11/01	06:15 AM	01:30 PM	01:15 PM	04:30 PM	SUNSET	08:00 PM
2011/11/07	06:00 AM	01:30 PM	01:15 PM	03:15 PM	SUNSET	08:00 PM
2011/12/01	06:00 AM	01:30 PM	01:15 PM	03:00 PM	SUNSET	08:00 PM
2011/12/05	06:15 AM	01:30 PM	01:15 PM	03:00 PM	SUNSET	08:00 PM

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