



GURU SIMRAN

IN HANOVER PARK



ILLINOIS
INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION
UNITY IN DIVERSITY

PUBLISHED BY





ੴ ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਿਰਭਉ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ

There is one universal creator God. Truth
is His name. He is the creator, without
fear, without hatred.



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SIKHISM

A monotheistic faith founded in the 15th century.

CORE PRINCIPLES

- One God (Ik Onkar)
- Equality of all people
- Honest living
- Sharing with others
- Remembering God through meditation



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GURU NANAK DEV JI

Guru Nanak **was born in 1469 in Talwandi** (now Nankana Sahib, Pakistan) to Mehta Kalu and Mata Tripta.

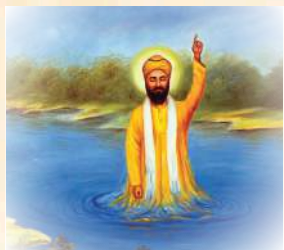


From a very young age, he showed signs of deep **spiritual awareness.**

While other children focused on play, **Guru Nanak questioned the meaning of life, God, and human existence.**

One well-known story from his childhood is the **“Sacha Sauda” (True Bargain).** His father gave him money to start a business, but instead, **Guru Nanak used it to feed hungry people.** He explained that serving humanity was the truest form of profit.

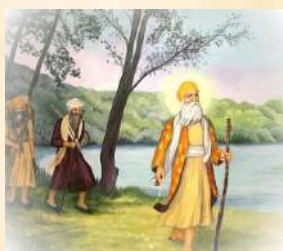
AWAKENING & TRAVELS



At around the age of **30**, **Guru Nanak** experienced a **profound spiritual** awakening while bathing in a river.

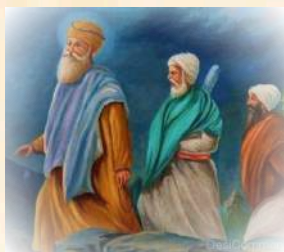
“There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim.”

This message emphasized that **all human beings are equal** and that true identity lies in devotion to the One Creator.



Guru Nanak then began a **series of long journeys known as Udasis**. He traveled across South Asia, the Middle East, and beyond, visiting places such as Mecca, Haridwar, and Baghdad.

AWAKENING & TRAVELS



During his travels, he engaged with people of different religions, challenged superstition and ritualism, and **spread a message of unity, truth, humility, and compassion.**

His companion, Bhai Mardana, accompanied him and played the rabab while **Guru Nanak sang divine hymns (Shabads)**



CORE TEACHINGS



Naam Japna: Remembering God



Kirat Karni: Honest living



Vand Chakna: Sharing with others

THE ETERNAL GURU

The **Guru Granth Sahib** is the sacred **scripture of Sikhism** and is regarded as the living Guru.



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TRUST IN THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE

RESPECT & ETIQUETTE

COVER YOUR
HEAD

REMOVE
SHOES

BOW
RESPECTFULLY

SIT ON THE
FLOOR

MAINTAIN SILENCE
AND RESPECT

LIVING THE SIKH WAY



SEVA

Selfless service

LANGAR

Free meals for all



EQUALITY

No discrimination
of any kind

THE FIVE KS

Kesh, Kara, Kanga,
Kachera, Kirpan



SACRED HYMNS

FROM GURU GRANTH SAHIB

SHABAD 1

ੴ ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਿਰਭਉ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ ਆਕਾਲ
ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

Ik Onkar, Sat Naam, Karta Purakh, Nirbhao, Nirvair Akaal
Moorat, Ajooni, Saibhang, Gur Prasad

There is One Universal Creator God. Truth is His Name.
Creator, without fear, without hate. Timeless, beyond birth,
self-existent, realized through the Guru's grace.

SHABAD 2

ਸੋਚੈ ਸੋਚਿ ਨ ਹੋਵਈ ਜੇ ਸੋਚੀ ਲਖ ਵਾਰ ॥ ਚੁਪੈਚੁਪ ਨ ਹੋਵਈ
ਜੇ ਲਾਇ ਰਹਾ ਲਿਵ ਤਾਰ ॥

Sochai soch na hova-ee je sochee lakh vaar Chupai chup na
hova-ee je laa-e rahaa liv taar

By thinking, He cannot be reduced to thought, even by
thinking hundreds of thousands of times. By remaining
silent, inner silence is not obtained.



Sikhism is a path of truth,
equality, and service. Live
honestly, remember the Creator,
and care for others.

**Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa,
Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh**



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ILLINOIS INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION

The Illinois Interfaith Organization is a community-driven initiative committed to uniting people of diverse faiths, cultures, & backgrounds through understanding, service, & harmony. Founded in the **summer of 2021**

VISION

The Illinois Interfaith Organization envisions a world deeply rooted in **unity, peace, & harmony**, where diverse faiths & cultures come together in compassion & cooperation, recognizing the sacred bond that connects all people.

MISSION

The Illinois Interfaith Organization **unites people of all faiths** in a spirit of dialogue, dignity, & mutual respect. By honoring diversity, upholding human rights, & helping organize various religious & cultural events that strengthen community bonds, it nurtures understanding, **peaceful coexistence, & a deeper awareness of our shared humanity.**

WHAT WE DO

**COMMUNITY
GATHERING**



**HEALTH &
WELLNESS**

**CAREER
DEVELOPMENT**



**DIGITAL SKILLS
TRAININGS**

**EXPERIMENTAL
LEARNING**



**MENTORING &
COACHING**

**LEADERSHIP
KEYNOTES**



**WILDERNESS
CHALLENGES**

EVENTS HOSTED BY IIO



GARBA



ANNUAL INTERFAITH DINNER



ADAM & EVE DAY



EID NAMAZ





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the heart of the Illinois Interfaith Organization is a simple yet powerful belief: **unity in diversity is our greatest strength.**

We bring together people of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds to foster understanding, respect, and peaceful coexistence. In a divided world, we create spaces where dialogue replaces division and compassion leads the way.

Inspired by the shared origin of humanity, symbolized through **Adam & Eve**, we are reminded that we are one human family, united by common values and a shared responsibility.

Our work focuses on promoting dialogue, strengthening communities, empowering future leaders, and upholding human dignity and social justice.

Nauman Khan Azeemi
Chairman
Illinois Interfaith Organization

PROCLAMATION GRANTED

DATE: 21ST JANUARY, 2026



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2026, **Chairman Nauman Khan Azeemi** of the Illinois Interfaith Organization formally requested the Hanover Park Park District Board to designate **February 21 as a day honoring Khawaja Shamsuddin Azeemi**, a respected 21st-century spiritual scholar; and

WHEREAS, **Khawaja Shamsuddin Azeemi** is widely recognized for his contributions to spiritual education, interfaith harmony, and the promotion of peace, unity, and understanding among diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, the teachings and legacy of **Khawaja Shamsuddin Azeemi** have inspired individuals across cultures and faiths to pursue knowledge, compassion, and service to humanity; and

WHEREAS, the **Hanover Park Park District** values diversity, mutual respect, and community engagement, and acknowledges the importance of recognizing individuals whose influence promotes harmony and strengthens social unity; and

WHEREAS, this **proclamation** was introduced by **President Mark Elkins**, seconded by Commissioner Grace Khan, and duly passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0 by the **Hanover Park Park District Board**;

WHEREAS, the **Hanover Park Park District** joins the Illinois Interfaith Organization in celebrating **Khawaja Shamsuddin Azeemi Day**; and
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Bessette, Executive Director of the Hanover Park Park District, do hereby proclaim **February 21, 2026**, as **Khawaja Shamsuddin Azeemi Day**, and call this observance to the attention of all our residents.

DATED THIS 21ST DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

Sincerely,

Steve Bessette
Executive Director
Hanover Park Park District

 630.837.2468

 www.hpparks.org

 1919 Walnut Ave, Hanover Park IL, 60133



OUR NEW INITIATIVE

We are happy to share that **Guru Simran will be held every last Sunday of the month in Hanover Park.** We welcome everyone to join us and experience unity, seva, and spiritual growth.



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We, Illinois Interfaith Organization, inviting everyone to unite through our motto
“Unity in Diversity”

GET IN TOUCH

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