

# CDS SUMMER 2026

COMMUNITY UPDATE

May 31 - August 31, 2026

## AT A GLANCE

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Community • Connection • Celebration

# Meet the New Board of Directors

A dedicated team, united by a shared commitment to our community, heritage and future.



## Message from the President

Dear Community, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your President. Together, we will continue building a stronger, more united and welcoming community - one that supports all generations, preserves our Druze heritage and values, and creates opportunities for a brighter future. I look forward to working with the Board and all of you to make our shared vision a reality.

### Omar Abdul Samad

PRESIDENT



I volunteer in my community because I'm passionate about helping it grow, thrive, and reach greater heights. Most importantly, I want to help keep our community connected, united, and strong for generations to come.

### Silva Bitar Salman

VICE PRESIDENT

I volunteer in my community because I'm passionate about helping it grow, thrive, and reach greater heights. Most importantly, I want to help keep our community connected, united, and strong for generations to come.



### Abir El-Eid Zebian

TREASURER

I am a caring person who enjoys helping others and making a positive difference. I believe in giving back to my community and supporting those around me whenever I can.



### Nina Ghosn Yehia

SECRETARY & DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

I volunteer because I want to be an active participant in the future of the CDS, to ensure a place of faith, community, and values exist for my children.



### Sanaa Debaissy

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

I like to volunteer to engage community together and I feel I'm a bridge between older generation and younger.



### Reem Zebian Tajeddine

DIRECTOR OF CULTURE

I volunteer because I believe serving our community is a duty. It is an investment in the future of our children and in the strength of our community. To me, the CDS is a place where our children can learn about and feel connected to their heritage and values. I want our children to grow up proud to be Canadians, but also deeply rooted in what it means to be Druze Canadians - to understand and live our Druze values.



### Walid Fayeze

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & FUND DEVELOPMENT

Being part of my community through volunteering is a truly rewarding experience. It's amazing to see people come together, learn from each other, and keep our cultural traditions, heritage, and language alive. Every small contribution counts.

# CANADIAN DRUZE SOCIETY

## *OUR PLAN - Listening First. Building Together.*

Our plan is to listen to our community, build on the great work already underway, and focus on the priorities that matter most to our families and future generations.

### **LISTEN & ENGAGE**

Use surveys and open dialogue to understand community needs, priorities, and ideas.

### **YOUTH & FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Expand social, sports, leadership, mentorship, and family activities that keep children and youth connected.

### **HERITAGE & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

Strengthen youth and senior activities, Arabic school, religious and cultural programs, and our Druze identity.

### **DRUZE HOUSE**

Improve and better utilize our community home as a welcoming, functional space for all generations.

### **NEWCOMERS & PROFESSIONAL NETWORK**

Partner with settlement agencies and connect professionals, students, entrepreneurs, and newcomers through mentorship and career support.

### **FUNDING & SUSTAINABILITY**

Pursue grants, sponsorships, partnerships, and external funding while reducing reliance on additional community contributions.

### **TRANSPARENCY & STRONGER COMMUNITY**

Improve communication, encourage volunteerism and participation, and keep the community informed about priorities and progress.

**Our goal: a connected, engaged, and sustainable community where every generation feels they belong and has an opportunity to contribute.**



# SUMMER 2026 - EVENTS IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY • CULTURE • CONNECTION

MAY  
31

## Adha Celebration

Families and friends gathered at the Druze House to celebrate Adha together with food, activities for children and time shared across generations.



JUNE  
13

## CDS 5K Run

Community members came together for an active and joyful day focused on participation, connection and community spirit.



JUNE  
13

## FIFA Game Watch Party

Soccer brought our community together for a lively FIFA World Cup watch party, sharing the excitement, energy and fellowship of the game.





# MORE SUMMER 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

GREAT PEOPLE • MEMORABLE EVENTS • A STRONGER COMMUNITY

JUNE  
28

## Annual Picnic

A welcoming family environment brought community members together outdoors. Youth and children enjoyed games and activities, and everyone gathered to watch Canada's FIFA World Cup game. We were delighted by the great turnout from across our community.



JULY  
26

## Niagara Falls Trip

Members and friends of all ages enjoyed a memorable day trip together, with a full bus, beautiful scenery, great company and lasting community memories.



AUG  
30

## 3-in-1 Celebration

Nearly 200 community members joined us for Membership Appreciation and our Graduate Celebration. Members enjoyed a complimentary BBQ prepared by our youth and served by our ladies. We proudly celebrated our 2026 graduates, and thank every volunteer who helped make the day special.



# ONGOING CDS PROGRAMS

HEALTH • WELLNESS • EDUCATION • CONNECTION

## Seniors Health & Wellness at CDS



Every Wednesday, CDS brings our seniors together for health, wellness, and connection, with programming led by Ghada Boutarieh. From gentle exercise and meditation to nutrition, creative activities, games, and social gatherings, the program promotes active living, meaningful connections, and overall well-being.

**Together, we stay active, connected, and engaged.**

## CDS Arabic School 2026/2027

Our Arabic School will commence in October and run through June, bringing together 50+ children from our community in virtual classrooms to learn and strengthen their Arabic language skills.

We are proud to subsidize the program through CDS, helping make Arabic education more accessible and affordable for our families. We are grateful for the continued support of our community in making this program possible.

### Interested in registering?

Email [Arabicschool@druze.net](mailto:Arabicschool@druze.net). We will coordinate future enrolment opportunities as spaces become available.



# JULY: MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS MONTH

WHY BE A CDS MEMBER?



**CDS** CANADIAN DRUZE SOCIETY

♥ YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

## Your Membership Matters

Every membership helps preserve our Druze heritage, culture, and traditions for future generations.

YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS THE CANADIAN DRUZE SOCIETY TO:

- Preserve our cultural identity.
- Support Arabic language and cultural education.
- Offer programs for youth, families, and seniors.
- Build a stronger, more connected community.
- Keep our traditions alive for generations to come.

**EVERY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS. FOR ABOUT \$10 A MONTH, YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.**

*Join. Belong. Preserve Our Legacy.*

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:**  
<https://druze.net/product-category/memberships/>

**MEMBER PORTAL REGISTRATION:**  
<https://druze.net/register/>

## WHY BECOME A CDS MEMBER?

### DISCOUNTED CDS EVENTS

Member-only discounts on social and community events.

### COMMUNITY CENTRE RENTAL

Discounted rates for personal and family use of the CDS Community Centre.

### CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS

Priority registration and discounted rates for planned summer camps.

### FUNERAL SERVICE SUPPORT

Support and discounted Centre rates for funeral receptions and services.

### COMMUNITY ACCESS

Access to members-only events, private forums and communication channels.

### EARLY ACCESS

Early access to conventions, volunteer opportunities and announcements.

## READY TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Access our new and updated membership portal

**ACCESS MEMBERSHIP PORTAL**

[druze.net/membership/](https://druze.net/membership/)





## Community Spotlight

Meet one of our amazing volunteers making a difference!

*Our People.  
Our Community.*



### REMEY ZAHEREDDEEN

*Volunteer Spotlight*

**With appreciation to Remey for her time, energy and dedication to our community.**

I volunteer to give back to the community that helped me find my roots, connect with others, and deepen my understanding of the Druze faith. My main focus is bringing our younger youth together by helping plan events where they can hang out, make great friends, and build memories that make them want to stay a part of our community.



*Together  
we make a  
difference.*

## Our Volunteers

Different roles. Same goal. A stronger community.



### Youth & Community Engagement



We bring people together by organizing events, activities and programs that strengthen connections, build friendships and create a sense of belonging for all ages — especially our youth.

*Stronger together!*



### Community Support & Volunteerism



We support our community through volunteering, helping with events, and making a positive impact in everyday ways. Because giving back builds a stronger, kinder community for everyone.

*Small actions.  
Big impact.*



### Heritage, Culture & Faith



We work to preserve and share our Druze heritage, values and traditions — keeping our identity strong while creating opportunities for learning, understanding and connection across generations.

*Our roots. Our strength.*

# HONOURING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CELEBRATING SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

In this section, we honour those who have made - and continue to make - a difference in our community through their service, dedication, and contributions.

## Honouring the Council of Presidents

For our first newsletter, we are honouring the Council of Presidents. As per our by-law, the Council consists of former presidents of the Society. The Council will meet twice a year and discuss matters of interest to the Society in coordination with the Board. The role is ceremonial, not executive.

**Presidents of the Canadian Druze Society of Ontario since 1992.**

- Saed Abouchakra
- Fares El-Ayyas
- Walid Al-Awar
- Jihad El-Halabi
- Basil Yehia
- Rola Hamdan
- Jalal Merhi
- Mohammad Abou Hamdan
- Giath Hamdan
- Ziad Yehia
- Bachir Aboulhosn
- Enas Boutrie Younis

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## CDS Early Contributors

Presidents of the Community prior to 1992

- The Late Youssef Bou Tarrieh
- Youssef Yehia
- Aref Yehia
- Khaled Homaidan

## UPCOMING EVENTS

|              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| SEPTEMBER 26 | Ladies Night Out      |
| OCTOBER 24   | Halloween Party       |
| NOVEMBER 15  | Gathering in the West |
| DECEMBER 12  | Holiday Gathering     |
| DECEMBER 31  | New Year's Eve Party  |

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

CDS is your community, and your voice matters. We welcome your ideas, suggestions and feedback on how we can continue to strengthen our community and better serve our members.

Send your comments to [president@druze.net](mailto:president@druze.net)

Together, we listen. Together, we build.

**JOIN • BELONG • PRESERVE OUR LEGACY**

Canadian Druze Society | [druze.net](http://druze.net)