

V 2.2, Issue 3 -
December
2008

DRUZE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

The Voice of the Druze



AL FAJR - THE DAWN
الفجر صوت الدروز



Special Report

Foundation Fund Raiser Great Success!



**Reported by: Shauki Halime
USA**

The Walid Joumblatt Foundation for Higher Education held its first ever fundraising event in the USA by hosting a Banquet Dinner party at the Downtown Marriott in Los Angeles, California on November 15, 2008. Many months of planning and organizing came to a very successful outcome with over 700

individuals attending from all over the world, including His Excellency **Mr. Walid Joumblatt** with his wife **Nora Joumblatt**, along with his Excellency **Mr. Marwan Hamadeh**. The big success of this noble cause was due to the hard work and efforts of **Mr. Sami Kadi, the Official Representative of Walid Joumblatt in the USA**, along with all the countless hours the individual volunteers put in. It is an honor for us to report on the evenings events. ☼



Events of the Evening!

The Arrival of Mr. Joumblatt and Mr. Hamadeh. Prior to the Banquet Dinner Party, group meetings were held in a question & answer format, with the many different groups & individuals attending.





Events of the Evening!

The reception hour was from 7-8pm where **Mr. Walid Joumblatt, Mr. Marwan Hamadeh** and **Mr. Jeffery Feltman, the former US Ambassador to Lebanon** were taking pictures with the crowd of 700 people.



The party started at 8:30 pm with **Dr. Jowanna Nashif** opening the evening by singing the American and Lebanese Anthem.



Mr. Imad Jamaledine introduced the Master of Ceremonies, the **Superior Court Judge, James Kaddo**. Judge Kaddo welcomed everyone including our guests of honor:





Events of the Evening!

Mr. Walid Joumblatt,
Mrs. Nora Joumblatt,
Mr. Marwan Hamadeh,
Mr. Jeffery Feltman,
Dr. Ray Irani,
Father Abdallah Zeidan,
Father Nabil
Mowanis, Consulate
General of Lebanon,
Mr. Hussam Diab,
Dr. Eli Eyoub, Dr.
Jason Boutros, our
star Mr. Casey
Kassem,
Dr. Jamil Aboulhosn,
Dr. Nabil Feghali,
Mr. Ed Salem,
Mr. Kanaan Hamzeh of
House of Lebanon,
Mr. Anis Karabet of the
World Lebanese Culture
Union, Mr. Karim Jawdi of
the Rotary Club, and
Mr. Ferris Wehbe,
 representing Beirut's
 sister city, the Mayor
 of Los Angeles,
 Antonio Villaraigosa.





Events of the Evening!

A large number of individuals representing the **March 14th** group attended the evening. **Mr. Mohammad Kaakati** from Anbaa Alarab Newspaper, and other community leaders and representatives were also in attendance.



The MC then introduced **Mr. Sami Kadi**, the event Chairman and the President/Co-founder of the Lebanese for Lebanon Foundation. Mr. Kadi welcomed everyone and thanked the volunteers that worked so hard preparing for this event, after which he welcomed Mr. Walid Joubblatt.



Mr. Marwan Hamadeh received an outstanding welcome with a standing ovation.





Events of the Evening!

Father Zeidan went on stage wishing the Lebanese people to come together the way they all came together in this beautiful event, welcoming Mr. Walid Joumblatt to Los Angeles and wishing his Foundation the best of luck.



After that, the **Consulate General of Lebanon, Mr. Hussam Diab** took the stage and spoke about the importance of helping Lebanese students and welcomed Mr. Walid Joumblatt to Los Angeles.



An elegant Dinner followed with **Dr. Jowanna Nashif** playing the beautiful sounds of *Feiruz*. After dinner, a video was played regarding the foundation and the number of students it has assisted in Lebanon.





Events of the Evening!

Mr. Casey Kassem took the stage and spoke very highly of **Mr. Walid Joumblatt** and his ability to found this excellent Foundation in 1982, a time when everyone was fighting.



After which, he introduced **Mr. Walid Joumblatt**, who spoke about Lebanon and about the current situation in Lebanon including the importance of democracy and a united Lebanon. One of the most important ways of achieving this can be made through education and by giving our students better opportunities for a higher education.



Judge Kaddo came back on stage and called on **Mr. Ferris Wehbe**, representing the city of Los Angeles, who presented to **Mr. Walid**





Events of the Evening!

Joumblatt the Key of the city and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Mr. Walid Joumblatt was also presented with a certificate from the Sheriff's Department by the Sheriff of Los Angeles, Mr. Lee Bacca.

The audience was then invited to participate in a question period, which Mr. Joumblatt kindly answered. ❖





Events of the Evening!





About the Foundation

“...the future can only be built by young people’s minds, with their spirits yearning for change, struggling for freedom, striving to promote the noble right, and achieving peace based on justice. I believe that our students are in the forefront of such young fighters....”

“....and I hope that when young beneficiaries graduate and embarks on their professional career, they will not forget their national, social and historic origins, and will give their utmost potential for the sake of society....”

Walid Joumblatt



The Foundation’s History

Based on the initiative of Mr. Walid Joumblatt the “Walid Joumblatt Foundation for University Studies—WJF” was established on December 30, 1982. Since then, the Foundation assisted a considerable number of students coming from different regions in Lebanon and seeking higher education in diversified fields of specialization.

Since 1982, the number of beneficiaries grew from 22 students to a grand total of 6157 grants by the end of 2007. A well rounded number of graduates who benefited from the assistance of the foundation obtained important positions in both private and public sector in Lebanon as well as abroad.

Beneficiaries

The Foundation has offered grants to students from all regions in Lebanon, covering a wide range of specializations, both at the Lebanese University as well as other universities in Lebanon.

The Foundation’s Objectives

The Foundation’s board of trustees acknowledges that the best investment lies in education, and sets a number of future objectives which include increasing the available budget, diversifying activities and establishing ties with grant graduates. Helping the largest number of Lebanese students from all regions of the various Universities based on standards of good academic tenure and a proven financial need.

The Foundation’s Vision

The Foundation aims at helping students find an answer to the emerging questions and problems of the young generation regarding:

- ★ The increasing unemployment rates among young people
- ★ Relatively low salaries for young fresh graduates
- ★ Very limited opportunities open up for young workers to develop their skills and capabilities
- ★ The high rate of immigration which offers an easy way for highly qualified minds to leave the country.



Publisher & Editor-In-Chief

Shauki Halime

E-mail:

Shauki@DruzeWorldwide.com

Website:

www.DruzeWorldWide.com



ان ما نقوم به هو عمل تابع من محبتنا
لطانفتنا .. طائفة الموحدين الدروز
ولتواصلنا مع بعضنا البعض حول العالم ،
وقد حققنا نجاحاً كبيراً بذلك
بمشيئة الله وبتشجيعكم.
مع الف شكر
حفظ الله طائفة الموحدين الدروز حول العالم

If you would like to receive notification when the next issue of this Magazine is available online, please send us an email to the address listed here or on the website, include your full name, email address, & country in which you reside. This magazine is primarily available on line though the website www.Druzeworldwide.com or in **print** by special order only. See website for ordering information & **full disclaimer**.

Please rest assured we will not share your email address with anyone. This is a private email listing which is not shared publicly or sold to anyone.

Please be sure to add DruzeWorldWide.com to your safe list in order to receive our emails directly. Thank you.

إذا كنت ترغب في ان تتلقى إعلام عندما يتوفر العدد المقبل من هذه المجلة على الإنترنت، الرجاء إرسال بريدك إلكتروني (ايي ميل) إلينا على العنوان المذكور هنا أو على موقعنا ال إلكتروني على شبكة الإنترنت، تتضمن اسمك الكامل وعنوانك الإلكتروني (اي ميل)، والبلد الذي تتواجد به. هذه المجلة تتوفر على موقعنا الإلكتروني من دون اي مقابل كما تتوفر طباعة بطلب خاص، راجع موقعنا على شبكة الإنترنت لطلب المعلومات.
www.Druzeworldwide.com
عناوينكم خاصة لن نشارك بها مع احد وليست للبيع.

يرجى التأكد من إضافة [com.DruzeWorldWide](http://com.DruzeWorldWide.com) إلى القائمة الخاصة بك لكي تتلقى رسائل البريد الإلكتروني مباشرة.

Also see Magazine DISCLAIMER Notification

Email: Druze@DruzeWorldwide.com

شكراً.

What we are about ...

This complimentary Druze Magazine is a non-political communication vehicle for the Druze community worldwide. It is our pleasure to be part of globally connecting our diverse Druze societies with one another.

With our common roots we have flourished & now reside in every country around the world. In an effort to keep our uniqueness & traditions in a fast paced and changing world; we need to maintain a method to transcend the requests for conformity.

We have the ability to share our unique culture & customs in a very accessible cyber world while maintaining the efforts



required to preserve those elements which have defined our past, & bring it's relevance & significance to our future generations.

This magazine is an attempt to stem the tide and assist with the evolution of our culture, as the world will surely dilute us if we are unable to define ourselves in a manner that will uphold our unique destiny into the 21st century.

We are at **The Dawn (Al-Fajr)** of our time to make a difference and create an identifiable culture that will be impossible for anyone to extinguish. **We want to hear from everyone on their ideas and thoughts.**

We have the widest Druze network available & the magazine is posted on the www.DruzeWorldwide.com website for it to be accessible around the globe for all to read & enjoy. It is also supported through social media websites such as **Druze Worldwide Group on Facebook and others.**

Everyone is welcome to submit an article or opinion for publication consideration. All ages are included & encouraged. We reserve the right to review, edit, accept or decline articles as well as revise for clarity, content & space.

Until the very exciting next issue, wishing the best to everyone!!

*Al Fajr The Dawn Druze International Magazine is prepared as a service to the Druze community Worldwide & may contain advice, opinions, & statements of various information providers. Al Fajr The Dawn makes no warranty, expressed or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information disclosed. The opinions of the authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Editor. Articles are always welcomed & can be emailed directly as noted above. Please see our website www.Druzeworldwide.com for further information and **full disclaimer**.*

Reproduction of any part of this publication requires permission from the Editor.

Copyright © 2008 — All rights reserved

المواد الواردة لا تعبر بالضرورة عن موقف

الفجر



www.DruzeWorldwide.com

Home of:

Al Fajr The Dawn Druze International Magazine

E-mail: Druze@DruzeWorldwide.com