



Oasis of Peace

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

20/21

ANNUAL REPORT



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF
Neve Shalom  *Wahat al-Salam*
נְשֵׁי שְׁלוֹם واحۡة السلام
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Abir Elzowidi,
*Director of the
American Friends/
NSWAS
National office*

Dear Friends,

2021 has been another challenging year, but we are not losing hope. In fact, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam gives us much to be hopeful about. Over the past twelve months, the Village has withstood an arson attack, renewed violence in the region, and a pandemic that continues to rage across the globe. With your support, they have met these challenges with dignity, empathy, and, ultimately, optimism that the world—and we—can be better.

The work that we do together doesn't just meet this moment—it has unlimited potential to shape a more just and equitable future for all. In 2021, your contributions were critical to sustaining a multigenerational pipeline of peacemakers. Your belief in the power of individuals to make a collective difference supported the Village first grader who forged lifelong friendships across language and culture as well as the climate activist whose practice was energized by new models of conflict resolution at the School for Peace.

During the violence of Spring 2021, radio and TV stations in Israel and around the world interviewed Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam's residents about how their unique model for community could be used to bring peace to this troubled region. We are proud to support their inspirational work, which is a beacon to others, and we extend a heartfelt thanks for all that you do to support their mission to create deep societal change rooted in dialogue, understanding, and respect.

Sincerely,

Joan Waller and Gordon Webster
*Co-Presidents, American Friends of
Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam*

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**“Reading the plaques
on the playground honoring
our donors and supporters, many
of the children have told me how
special they feel knowing that people
all over the world care about them.”**

— Reem Nashef, Vice Principal, The Primary School

The Primary School



This year, your generosity helped sustain a pipeline for peace, supporting in-person learning for children from a dozen communities in the region, afterschool activities and programs for teens, and trainings and workshop for change agents in climate justice, education, social work, and urban planning, and other professions.

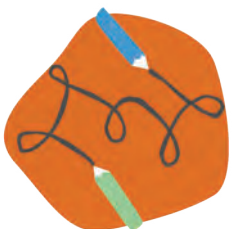
- You created a second classroom for first graders to accommodate more Palestinian and Jewish students from the village and surrounding communities.
- You purchased new playground equipment, enabling more outdoor activities during the pandemic.
- You added resources for teachers, including online teacher trainings and the newly formed Binational Educators Forum, a group of Palestinian-Jewish educators from the Village and other mixed cities focused on building cohesive classes with students who not only speak different languages but come from widely disparate backgrounds.

“Amongst all the organizations seeking support, NSWALS stands out as the one which gives me the most hope for the children of the M.E. and for the family of the world.”

— Barbara Meislin -the “Purple Lady”- our sustainer and friend since 1988

Now educating a third generation of children, the Primary School continues to be a cutting-edge model for intercultural exchange, inspiring the creation of several other schools across Israel. Jewish and Arab students learn side-by-side in Hebrew and Arabic while becoming confident and knowledgeable in their own identities, cultures, and traditions.

“The Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation has proudly supported Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salaam for more than two decades.



In 2020-2021, AFNSWAS provided \$201,400 to the Primary School.

Founded by Rabbi NM Cohen and Naomi Halperin Cohen, both born in Jerusalem in 1890, the Foundation believes that shared living and integrated, bilingual schools are essential to building a shared and equal society in Israel.”

— Alison McWilliams a friend since 1999

The School for Peace



- You ensured the school exceed its fundraising goal toward the redesign and rebuilding of the school after it was destroyed by arson in fall 2020.
- You funded a grant program aimed at initiatives that promote peace, social and political change, equality between Jews and Palestinians, a just solution to the national conflict, and contribute towards ending occupation and the oppression.
- You enabled School for Peace to meet the challenges of the spring hostilities by partnering with organizations like the Israel Association of Community Centers to provide dialoging workshops to their over 700 community centers around the country.

For more than 40 years, the School for Peace has provided change-making and peace-building courses to hundreds of professionals in a variety of fields, from journalists and city planners to healthcare professionals. School staff have worked with groups in conflict all over the world, including in Costa Rica, Cyprus, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and the United States.

“It has been highly encouraging, during this difficult time, to have heard from several graduates of the School for Peace who said that our activities had changed their perspective and increased their ability to engage during the current discouraging reality.”

— Roi Silberberg, Director, School for Peace, May 2021



In 2020-2021, AFNSWAS provided \$141,000 to the School for Peace.

Spiritual Center, Peace Museum, and Oasis Art Gallery

The Spiritual Center, Peace Museum, and Oasis Art Gallery use the arts as a touchstone for exploring the roots of conflict and its effect on individuals and communities. Accompanying public programs and artist talks give visitors a space to share insights and exchange ideas.



In 2020-2021, AFNSWAS provided \$27,000 to the Spiritual Center, Peace Museum, and Oasis Art Gallery.

“In the midst of incredible obstacles, WSNS has stayed true to its founding vision and has already produced a generation who witness that living in peace is possible. Onward with the next generation!”

— Carolyn Osiek, St. Louis, Missouri
a friend since 1999

Humanitarian Aid Program



The Humanitarian Aid Program is a lifeline in Gaza and the West Bank. Since 2002, the program has brought free medical care and supplies—including examinations, medicines, and surgeries—to hospitals, refugee camps, and isolated villages. The program also supplies aid to emergency responders working in conflict zones.



“The Oasis of Peace changed the conversation in the Jewish Palestinian conflict. Rather than viewing one side as being right and the other wrong, both sides have validity and are entitled to equal status. In this model village, there is no place for dominance of one culture over another. Living together with mutual respect offers the rest of us a road map to peace.”

— Marlene Goldheimer a friend since 1988



In 2020-2021, AFNSWAS provided \$65,000 to the Humanitarian Aid Program.

The Nadi Youth Center



- You encouraged young people to express themselves and learn about diversity through theater workshops, art making, and other creative outlets.
- You sponsored Superhero Camp, a three-day program for fourth through sixth graders that included outdoor exploration, camping, and bonding activities and helped ease the social isolation of the pandemic for young children.
- You provided a safe space for gathering and conversation during the hostilities of Spring 2021, and ensured that Nadi staff had the resources to address children's anxieties about the violence.



“For over 30 years I have admired the visionary, pioneering founders and residents of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam who chose to establish this community of co-existence as an example of something very great. By living together and enthusiastically teaching their children, and the children of the world, that it is possible to build trust, respect, and friendship, great accomplishments will come about. When people of the world recognizes this, peace in the Middle East and beyond will happen! I am proud, as you must be too, to support this effort.”

— Elaine Rubenstein, Cazenovia, NY, a friend since 1984

The Nadi brings Arab and Jewish youth together to connect with each other through activities centered on social and creative enrichment. Offerings include studio art classes, a theater program, community volunteering, and more.



In 2020-2021, AFNSWAS provided \$16,000 to the Nadi.

“Thank you for all of your efforts to repair the world and to see the potential in education to not only bridge gaps, but, perhaps in the end, create the connections of peace, justice, and respect which make those gaps seem like afterthoughts. Your teachers, parents and students are heroes, our hope for the future, and we look forward to continuing with you on that journey.”

— Dr. Peter H. Hoffenberg, Chair, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, a friend since 2010

2021 Highlights Of Giving:

Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam demonstrates that peace is grounded in the courage to act, from holding space for a difficult conversation to delivering needed supplies to a conflict zone during a pandemic. In 2021, your contributions helped turn ideals into action, enabling important projects and initiatives that benefited thousands of people in need.



Delivering Humanitarian Aid: Thanks to your generosity, the Humanitarian Aid Project was able to continue delivering aid to Gaza and surrounding areas during a period of increased hostility in the region. You helped doctors to set up mobile emergency rooms, treat thousands of patients, perform dozens of operations, and train local medical staff. You also helped purchase thousands of masks to prevent the spread of COVID as well as medication for the sick. Significantly, in the beginning of June, responding to a specific call to action, you provided emergency funding for in-kind purchases of medicines and supplies for Gaza hospitals that were damaged in the fighting.

Meeting the Moment: Seeking ways to give respite from the stress of the violence of the spring and summer, your donations enabled 73 children from the Village and surrounding neighborhoods and ten counselors to participate in five days of summer camp. In addition, you gave generously to the Spiritual Center, bringing their impactful and inspiring calendar of in-person and virtual programming—interfaith meetings, holiday meals, lectures, concerts, and performances—to those still suffering from the loss and isolation of the pandemic.

Speaking Up and Speaking Out: The violence in May shocked many people into action all over the world. Your support of the School for Peace enabled staff and graduates to organize peaceful demonstrations and emergency actions to prevent violence and protect their communities. In the city of Lydda, one of the foci of ethnic violence, the school continues to facilitate meetings of community leaders to improve relations between Jews and Palestinians.

“I believe our shared destiny will evolve in one of two ways: either we will remain together in this darkness of pain, or we will choose to reconcile and build a new shared reality that might help awaken all the people on this planet to our common humanity. This is what we have been doing as best we can at the Oasis of Peace/Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam.”

— Rayek Rizek, Villager since 1984



Turning Ideals into Action

Nurturing Dialogue: Your generosity supported the Oasis Art Gallery in bringing communities together around difficult but critical topics including the proliferation of false and misleading news, the devastating effects of climate change, and the suppression of women’s rights. This fall, the gallery presented “Me Is We, I Am She” as part of the United Nations’ Global 16 Days Campaign to bring awareness to violence against women. Participating Palestinian and Jewish artists hosted youth workshops and community conversations in collaboration with the Primary School, the NADI Youth Center, and the Tel Aviv Museum.



Caring for the Environment: Your donations helped launch initiatives aimed at making Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam more sustainable. Thanks to your generosity, the Village was able to plant a new community vegetable garden, implement fire safety improvements, and improve sewage treatment and recycling capabilities. The Village also launched a long-term project to convert to solar power, initiating a call for proposals from several major solar companies and working with engineers to understand infrastructure needs.



Total Grants 2020-2021: \$450,400



“Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is the most direct and, therefore, most powerful expression of the “shared society” ethos in Israel-Palestine. Its guiding vision is of different peoples who despite residing in a zone of bitter enmity and high-conflict come together to dwell in constructive harmony. This vision is achieved through the committed acts of living together in intentional community. The diverse projects and ongoing work of The Oasis of Peace is, in fact, existential praxis of such a high order that, in these dark times, it ably serves as a beacon of possibility for all humans.”

— Eliezer Margolis a friend since 2001

**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE SHALOM/WAHAT AL-SALAM, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	August 31,	
	2021	2020
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 332,160	\$ 171,386
BOARD DESIGNATED ASSETS		
Investments - board designated	293,435	252,609
DONOR RESTRICTED ASSETS		
Investments held for endowment purposes	648,916	557,098
OTHER ASSETS		
Promises to give	-	50,000
Security deposits	800	800
Total assets	\$ 1,275,311	\$ 1,031,893
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accrued retirement contribution	\$ 1,420	\$ 1,133
Accrued compensated absences	6,702	-
Small Business Administration, PPP loan	19,200	19,200
Total current liabilities	27,322	20,333
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	305,638	201,853
Board designated	293,435	252,609
With donor restrictions	648,916	557,098
Total net assets	1,247,989	1,011,560
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,275,311	\$ 1,031,893

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE SHALOM/WAHAT AL-SALAM, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

	Year Ended August 31,	
	2021	2020
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$ 753,406	\$ 578,853
Interest and dividends	9,813	8,005
Federal grant	-	2,000
Other operating revenue	40	214
Total operating revenues and other support	763,259	589,072
Operating expenses:		
Program services	574,713	500,005
Support	58,978	35,774
Fundraising	57,237	52,518
Total operating expenses	690,928	588,297
Operating income	72,331	775
Other :		
Loan forgiveness - SBA/Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan	19,200	-
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	30,835	7,212
Net assets released from restrictions	22,245	-
Increase in net assets without donor restrictions	144,611	7,987
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Investment income from donor restricted investments	114,063	47,674
Net assets released from restrictions	(22,245)	-
Increase in net assets with donor restrictions	91,818	47,674
Change in net assets	236,429	55,661
Net assets at beginning of year	1,011,560	955,899
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,247,989	\$ 1,011,560

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.



Oasis of Peace

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

You can find our newsletters
and activity reports on our website:

www.oasisofpeace.org/newsletters

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The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a not-for-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Service Code. We do not sell, trade, rent or otherwise disclose donor information. Our donor privacy policy is available on our website or by mail.

AFNSWAS Financial Management: AFNSWAS a 501(c) (3) organization in good standing, fully compliant with provisions required under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and is independently audited, annually, by James Vanstrom & Company of Falconer, NY which has consistently reported satisfactory results. Internal controls are implemented through an internal Audit Committee. The Board of Directors exercises full discretion and control over all grants to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam through a multi-stage process that begins when the Board and the AFNSWAS staff meet with NSWAS representatives. The Board decides, from a list of potential projects, what it should solicit funding for and then, after a careful consideration of the formal grant proposals submitted to AFNSWAS by NSWAS, determines which grants, and how much, will get funded. The Board, through on-site visits by individual directors and through extensive reporting by NSWAS, ensures that the funds have been used as intended.

