

A M E R I C A N F R I E N D S O F
Neve Shalom  *Wahat al-Salam*
נְוֵה שְׁלוֹם وَاحَة السَّلَام
O A S I S O F P E A C E

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Embracing Change and Moving Forward – Even From a Distance

We are so glad to be able to send this “later than usual” Fall Newsletter to you! As you may already know, a second arson attack took place at The Fred Segal Peace Library on September 8th, damaging the interior of the building and the Oasis Art Gallery. While the police continue to investigate, they have no concrete leads. Luckily, no injuries were suffered and the library and art gallery are being repaired as you read this newsletter. In combination with the COVID-19 crisis, this devastating case of arson might have prevented a less motivated and devoted community from moving forward - but with your generous support and our firm mission, we are no ordinary community.

Rebuilding



We look forward to sending you photos of the completed restoration soon.

Moving Forward



The School for Peace's vital programming carries on in The Fred Segal Peace Library.

“THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE WILL NOT DEVIATE US FROM OUR RESOLVE TO CHANGE, OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS WONDERFUL PLACE, AND THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE WE GAINED UNDER THE ROOF OF THIS SCHOOL.”

— Amal Oribi, participant in the Change Agents course for lawyers.

Exciting New Leadership

We hope you will join us in congratulating Roi Silberberg as he begins his new position as Program Director of the School for Peace. With an MA in Human Rights from the University of Malta and a PhD in Philosophy of Education from Haifa University, Roi became a facilitator for groups in conflict in 2016. His work within the School for Peace has been exemplary and we envision great things in the future under his guidance.



Roi Silberberg

We also thank Nava for her decades of dedication in building this extraordinary, ground-breaking institution. Nava says: ***“It is time to let the younger generation lead the SFP. I am especially happy because it will enable a smooth continuation of the SFP’s important work.”***

Creating a Better Future

The School for Peace placed awnings over the upper level courtyard at the Fred Segal Peace Library in order to continue all programming and change agent courses outside until repairs can be completed and social distancing measures are relaxed. We are continuing on with and also just beginning several new Change Agents courses. These 1 1/2- 2 year programs are built for various Jewish and Palestinian professionals including lawyers, leaders of mixed cities, and graduate students.

Our latest programs are built for artists, human rights lawyers, and mixed-group facilitators. Should COVID-19 related distancing measures be relaxed in time, we will also hold our High School Jewish-Palestinian Youth Encounter program later this Fall. Through this challenging year, it is your support that allows us to rebuild stronger than ever and to continue programming and education without pause.



Carrying on the Work

As for those who have already completed studies with the School for Peace we are proud to report that they continue to move decisively toward building a more peaceful world. School for Peace graduates recently met in Nazareth to begin making plans for a new branch in the north of the country to further build on our impact in peacemaking. Graduates of the collaborative School For Peace and Arab Center for Alternative Planning courses for architects and planners have also been active in creating an online declaration of opposition to the Israeli Government’s proposed annexation plans.

**YOUR SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL FOR PEACE MAKES ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS REACHED OUT IN THE PAST WEEKS.
THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE KEPT US IN YOUR THOUGHTS. THE
SCHOOL FOR PEACE MOVES ONWARD WITHOUT PAUSE BECAUSE OF YOU.**

Distance Learning For All

The Primary School, like all schools in Israel, has returned to distance learning while Israel tries to cope with a large-scale resurgence of the Coronavirus. To accommodate Ministry of Health class size regulations, we renovated and installed air conditioning in several buildings for student safety and comfort when they are allowed back in the classroom.

Additionally, funding has been secured to update and upgrade the playground, something to look forward to when students are able to return. In the meantime, we are so grateful to report that



Masks came off for a photo-op moment.

because of your generosity, every single student in the Primary School received the necessary internet access and computers needed to fully participate in distance learning.

Requested Aid Resolutely Delivered

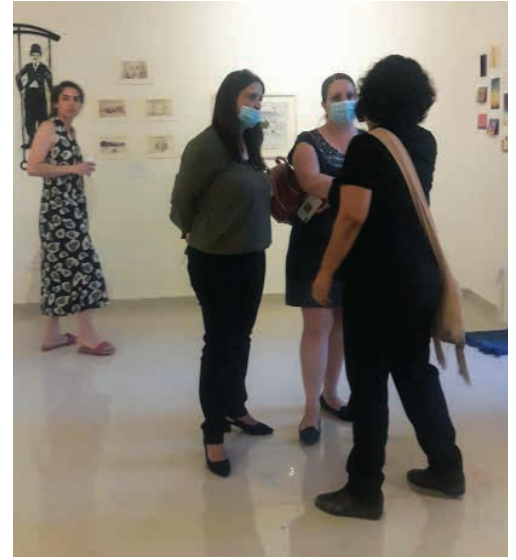
The Humanitarian Aid Committee has also been making an impressive impact in recent months. Due to Israel's ongoing closure of the Gaza Strip and a debt crisis of the Palestinian Health Ministry, Gaza Hospital is currently suffering from a 50% shortage of medicines required for patients suffering from chronic diseases. On July 23, we were able to send the needed \$10,000 of medicine directly to the hospital. Additionally, we were able to help fund a water generator for Gaza's second largest hospital which converts air to water, producing about 5,000 liters (1,320 US gallons) of clean water per day.



Donations from the American Friends of Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam helped make all of this work possible. Our gratitude is enormous. In the chaos of occupation, the Humanitarian Aid Committee continues to step up and deliver needed resources to those whose lives have been so terribly disrupted. With your continued support, we can maintain the flexibility and responsiveness the situation requires.

Driven to Create

Prior to the arson attack, the summer exhibition at our Art Gallery provided the opportunity for many community stakeholders to create and display creative work. More than ever, in this isolating era of COVID-19 lock downs and occupation, building and maintaining community across cultural boundaries requires opportunities for expression, sharing, and support exactly such as these. With the restoration of the art gallery nearly complete, we look forward to more exhibitions in the near future.



“THE OPENING OF THIS SPECIAL EXHIBITION WAS AN OCCASION FOR JOY AND PRIDE FOR ALL - WE PROVED THAT WE ARE TRULY A CREATIVE COMMUNITY.”

— Dyana Shaloufi Rizek, Gallery Curator

Growing Across Faiths

In partnership with Rabbis for Human Rights, the Spiritual Center has begun a program for 17 young religious leaders. Five of these young women and men are Muslim, five Christian, and seven Jewish. Each of them is devoted to different sects and streams within each of the Abrahamic Faiths and together they will be working toward engaging their communities in much-needed interfaith projects that promote peace. We look forward with great excitement to see what this special group of young leaders will accomplish.





Wahat al-Salam
Neve Shalom

واحة السلام
נווה שלום

With the the beginning of the Feast of the Cross, school year and the new year celebrations in Judaism and Islam, the community of Wahat al Salam - Neve Shalom wishes our friends and supporters around the world a good year, full of hope, compassion and friendship.

During every difficulty, possibilities arise with every obstacle, hope shines through Against whispers of hatred, the voice of love arise Fire can consume a building, yet belief cannot be destroyed The call of children for life continues. We will continue to build peace.

Fatin Abdel Halim , Chair of The Association of Educational Institutions
Anwar Dawood, Chair of the Municipal Society

مع بداية العام العبري, عيد الصليب والسنة الهجرية وإفتتاح السنة الدراسية قرية واحة السلام تتمنى لكل الأصدقاء والداعمين في كل مكان في العالم سنة طيبة, سنة أمل, تأخي ومحبة.

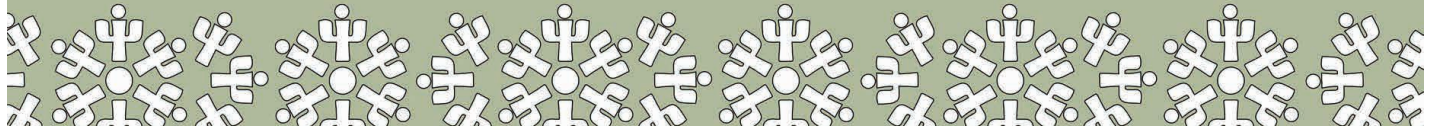
مع كل أزمة تنمو فرصة أمام الحواجز تنبع الآمال ضد همسات الكراهية, تعلو اصوات الحب تحطم النيران البنيان, ولكنها تقوي الإيمان سيستمر هتاف الأطفال من اجل الحياة من تحت الركام سنبنى قلاع السلام

رئيسة الهيئة الإدارية الجمعية التربوية- فاتن عبد الحليم
رئيس إدارة الجمعية التعاونية - أنور داود

עם פתיחת השנה העברית, השנה ההג'רית, חג הצלב ושנת הלימודים, קהילת וואחת אל סלאם נווה שלום מאחלת לכל היידיים, והתומכים בכל מקום בעולם שנה טובה, שנת תקווה, חמלה ואחוזה.

עם כל משבר נפתחות אפשרויות, עם כל מכשול מבצצים להם התקוות, מול לחשי השנאה, מאהבה עולים הקולות האש מפילה את הבניין, אך קשה להפיל את אמונות. קריאות הילדים לחיים נמשכות נקום ואת השלום נמשיך לבנות.

יו"ר העמותה החינוכית פאתן עבד אלחלים
יו"ר האגודה השיתופית אנואר דאוויד



Eight months into the COVID-19 crisis and because so many traditions mark a new year at this time, all of us at Wahat al-Salam - Neve Shalom rejoice in affirming our gratitude for the international outpouring of support we've experienced through this crisis and following news of the terrible arson at the School for Peace. Although we are far apart, our mutual dedication to a future of peace and common achievement pulls us together across miles, past perceived differences, and in defiance of those who support occupation and work against peace in our region.

From the School for Peace to the Primary School, the Oasis Art Gallery to the Spiritual Center, your support of Wahat al-Salam - Neve Shalom is felt and appreciated every day by the next generation of bilingual bridge-builders. Even from afar, you are changing the landscape of possibility for this region and taking a stand to assemble hopeful, positive futures for all who call it home.

If you make it possible, then it will be possible. Thank you.



BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN PEACE

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Planned Giving

Will your legacy continue your commitment to the work of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam?

A bequest or a planned gift to AFNSWAS keeps your commitment.

The new CARES act allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as AFNSWAS to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year. The new CARES act allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize.

The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

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