

# PEACE IS A PLACE

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF  
*Neve Shalom*  *Wahat al-Salam*  
נווה שלום   
OASIS OF PEACE



## ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017-2018

## ***Letter from the Presidents***

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support for Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (NSWAS)- the Oasis of Peace – where residents live, work, educate and change lives in the midst of the ongoing conflict. Its growth in membership, students, programs and visitors (3,200 this year) has been steady. This has also been a year of successful transition and growth for American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (AFNSWAS). At the end of the 2017 fiscal year, our Board of Directors designed a small - office structure led by our Associate Director with greater Board of Director engagement that could yield more effective outreach, more effective education and more effective utilization of funds. The board decided to return to a fiscal year corresponding to a calendar year, rather than an academic year, beginning January 1, 2019. We celebrate deeper board involvement in outreach and education and an increase in numbers of supporters. We received Guidestar's Gold Seal, having reduced our fundraising costs below 10%.

We are pleased to tell you that our new approach has had an excellent first year: more donor support, a more diverse group of learners including Jewish, Christian and Muslim congregations, retirement communities, college students and faculty, and more of our audience introduced to members of this extraordinary village. In the midst of ongoing conflict, they are our heroes, these change-agents from Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam whose work gives us all hope!

Rev. Gordon Webster, Co-President AFNSWAS Joan Waller, Co-President, AFNSWAS

### **Our Context:**

As in 2016 - 2017, the continued, long-term and seemingly politically intractable conflict about resources, land use, borders, refugee status and civil rights has an impact on donor enthusiasm for supporting those programs that honor the rights, responsibilities and narratives of both Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel. Here in the United States, the quality and frequency of civil dialogue among and between citizens of the United States also remains challenging. Americans, in public meetings and media, take sides and find reasons to support or blame Jewish **and** Palestinian citizens of Israel for particular events or circumstances. But because we are human, we all carry a hunger for what might be called "good news", evidence of change even if it is in small ways and distant places.

### **Outreach and Education:**

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam has developed materials and strategies that we share freely and (free of charge) with the many individuals, community groups, congregations and schools that request them whether by phone, via website or in a presentation. Because we are a small office with minimal staff, our speaker schedule is shared among our full-time staff, our board members and representatives of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, generally able to visit the US for a week or two each year.

These public programs do not include fundraising requests. They focus on the current

challenges facing Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel, the complexities of working across entrenched interests and political realities, and responding to questions brought by the audience- questions about identity, narrative, religious concerns and history.

Our website and social media presence is improving in content quality and frequency of donor connection. Our on-line donations have increased slowly but steadily by 5 % over the past two years.

## **The Primary School**

Whether olive-picking, play production or civic education, the Primary School (PS) integrates academics, culture and contemporary issues. A trail-blazer in bilingual and multicultural education, the school's diverse, expansive curriculum inspires students, families, the educational community- serving as a model for other bilingual schools.

At the PS, children hear and learn Hebrew and Arabic in all areas of life from academic to social. The school, growing sustainably each year, follows a fifty percent Jewish and fifty percent Palestinian student body balance, ensuring that students and families alike are fully represented in NSWAS's vision of a shared and peaceful future.

This year, the Primary School focused on publishing its new bilingual, multicultural curriculum, and supporting PS families and communities with community events and a monthly series of workshops, along with public events, focused on parents and guardians of PS students, fostering a deeper acquaintance with one another and a growing confidence in becoming more involved in the day-to-day life of the PS. New Jewish/ Palestinian friendships were made, bonds strengthened, and more inclusive community fostered!

**AFNSWAS provided \$155,000 to the Primary School.**

## **The School for Peace**

A highly effective curricula has garnered the School for Peace (SFP) an international reputation for excellence in change-making and peace-building programs. This year, the Women in Media, and Up and Coming Politicians courses stood out as places where deep change can currently be built— where participants developed the skills and techniques necessary to build a durable peace.

Journalists, environmental activists, educators, and health professionals joined in the SFP's Change Agents programs, a set of courses designed to bring emerging professionals together. In doing so, SFP works to improve individuals' knowledge and understanding and builds a community of like-minded, dedicated people ready and willing to transform dialogue into action in their lives and the communities that they touch.



2019 marks the school's 40th anniversary. Over the years SFP has expanded their curricula to partner with high schools, colleges and universities, creating youth programming in cooperation with Palestinian and Jewish educators as well as year-long courses, while also developing a robust series of regional and national conferences. Support from individuals, foundations and organizations like USAID (which recently funded a conference for mental health professionals), the SFP looks forward to another 40+ years of educating for change, impacting lives and making way for a shared future.



**AFNSWAS provided \$89,756 for SFP programs in 2017-18.**

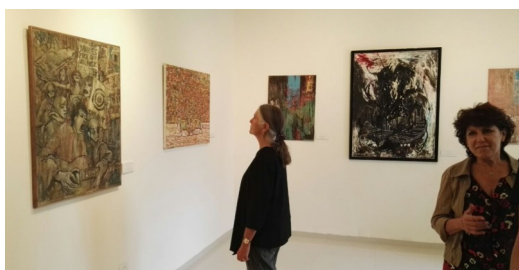
## **Doumia-Sakinah/ Pluralistic Spiritual Center, Museum and Oasis Art Gallery**



In the 18 years since the Pluralistic Spiritual Center opened, it has provided space and leadership for learning, reflection and cooperation for Jewish and Palestinian Israelis, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and secular. Currently, Jewish and Palestinian film screenings, book launches, workshops, cyclical religious community celebrations and events and more take place within the Center. In recent years, the Spiritual Center has expanded to include the Peace Museum and Oasis Art Gallery, offering visitors

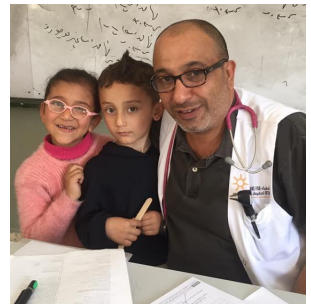
another way to understand the Jewish-Palestinian conflict and deepen their commitment to being part of a solution. The Oasis Art Gallery's exhibitions and artist-encounter programs during 2017- 2018 focusing on action and nonviolence, and the experiences of refugees throughout the world with an engaging sensitivity, challenged and connected with its visitors who came from across Israel and around the world.

**AFNSWAS provided \$15,000 in 2017-2018 for the Oasis Art Gallery exhibitions and programs.**



## Humanitarian Aid Program

In remote West Bank villages and areas of crisis including Gaza, the Humanitarian Aid Program (HAP) serves as a literal lifeline. Since 2002, volunteers have provided Gaza and the West Bank refugee camps, hospitals and isolated villages with free medical care including examinations, medicines, surgery, and referrals where possible. HAP also provides aid to emergency responders, nurses, and doctors in the field. Dr. Raid Haj Yehia, a pediatrician, has worked tirelessly for the past several years with HAP and the Physicians for Human Rights to treat children in al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City all of whom are without access to needed medical care.



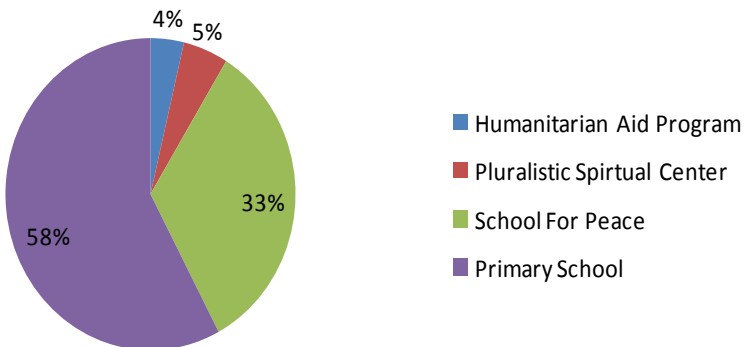
With NSWAS's help, HAP has transferred children with serious and life-threatening conditions to specialist hospitals in Israel, provided open clinics in villages and rural areas, and distributed medical supplies to those in need. Through the volunteer work and gifts of NSWAS members, HAP also provides a one-week camp held every summer in NSWAS, providing children from West Bank refugee camps with the opportunity to participate in NSWAS's lived reality of equality and mutual respect. The HAP Summer Camp gives children and their families a vision of a shared and peaceful future— while in the



West Bank, HAP medical volunteers make sure that those in need of medical attention get the chance to see that future unfold.

**In 2017-2018, AFNSWAS provided a grant of \$10,000 to the Humanitarian Aid Program.**

## What did your contributions fund in 2017-2018?



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

	Year Ended August 31,	
	2018	2017
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$ 505,861	\$ 357,540
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	9,335	6,544
Other operating revenue	30	203
<b>Total operating revenues and other support</b>	515,226	364,287
Operating expenses:		
Program services	425,434	369,995
Support	62,718	70,823
Fundraising	46,503	51,847
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	534,655	492,665
<b>Operating loss</b>	(19,429)	(128,378)
Other :		
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	7,860	14,653
Net assets released from restrictions	30,000	30,000
<b>Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets</b>	18,431	(83,725)
<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Investment income (expense) from donor restricted investments	35,834	47,726
Net assets released from restrictions	(30,000)	(30,000)
<b>Increase in temporarily restricted net assets</b>	5,834	17,726
<b>Change in net assets</b>	24,265	(65,999)
<b>Net assets at beginning of year</b>	881,670	947,669
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 905,935</b>	<b>\$ 881,670</b>

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

	<u>August 31,</u>	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 98,721	\$ 98,180
Investments - other	-	3,296
Prepaid expenses	1,160	1,909
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>99,881</b>	<b>103,385</b>
<b>BOARD DESIGNATED ASSETS</b>		
Investments - board designated	233,285	214,553
<b>DONOR RESTRICTED ASSETS</b>		
Investments held for endowment purposes	522,949	517,115
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Promises to give	50,000	50,000
Security deposits	800	800
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 906,915</b>	<b>\$ 885,853</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 2,036
Accrued retirement contribution	980	2,147
Accrued payroll	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>4,183</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	149,701	150,002
Board designated	233,285	214,553
Temporarily restricted	159,168	153,334
Permanently restricted	363,781	363,781
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>905,935</b>	<b>881,670</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 906,915</b>	<b>\$ 885,853</b>



## Honorary Advisory Council

David Hitchcock

Khalil Jahshan

Hani Masri

Hon. Richard Murphy

Naomi Shihab Nye

## Board of Directors

Rev. Gordon Webster, President

Joan C. Waller Co-President

Judy Dubin, Vice President

Deborah First, Secretary

Herb Adelman, Treasurer

Gordie Fellman

Richard Goodwin

Robert Green

Rima Mahmoud

Barbara Ridberg

Judith Tuller

Susan Zaslavsky

Ted First, Co Treasurer

Abir Elzowidi, Director

## 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.

## NSWAS Living & Learning Together with Equality, Respect and Acceptance



You can find our newsletters and activity reports on our website: <http://oasisofpeace.org/newsletters>

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.

## American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

229 North Central Ave, Ste 401, Glendale, CA 91203

Tel: 818-662-8883 Fax: 818-465-9498

[afnswas@oasisofpeace.org](mailto:afnswas@oasisofpeace.org), [www.oasisofpeace.org](http://www.oasisofpeace.org)