

SPRING 2018



A Season of Renewal

A message from Eitan Kremer, founding member of NSWAS

Dear friends,

As one of the founders of the village, I have seen the fruits of our work as well as the struggles. I do believe that all of us: you and my friends here and me are entering a new period where we will once again focus on being one of the major leaders in pioneering new efforts for co-existence in the region. In these very difficult times, it will be an uphill battle, and your support has always strengthened us and helped make our efforts successful.

I will try to help and support you and my comrades here to realize and maximize their personal and organizational potential by contributing my experience and devotion (motivation) to my/our life project –NSWAS! I hope we can all work together to bring about a more equitable shared society all around us.

Eitan Kremer

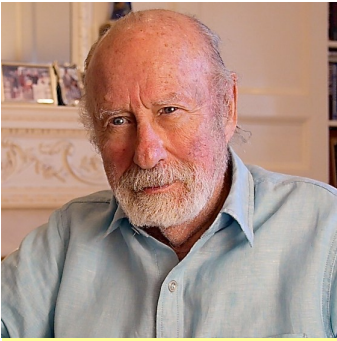
Chair NSWAS Educational Institutions



Because together we are making peace a reality.

Supporting the projects of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, strengthening a shared society between Palestinians and Jews through education, engagement and activism.

Support the projects of NSWAS by making a donation today.



Donor Profile: Sidney Topol - Renewing our spirit of citizenship

Communication continues to be at the very core of Sidney Topol's life. His early work at Raytheon through to his Chairmanship of Scientific Atlanta, and his service as chairman of the Advanced Television Systems Committee of the Electronic Industries Association, all began with interest in innovations that served a wider audience and, like cable and satellite communications, made the seemingly impossible possible.

Sidney was born into a family devoted to social-justice and human rights. His mother's Union organizing began before the Triangle Shirtwaist fire and continued, a brother marched in Selma, and Sidney found, in his Atlanta years with social-justice activists like Andrew Young, that there were some clear parallels between America's civil rights struggles and those among Israelis and Palestinians.

When he returned to Boston, he became part of an Israel/Palestine dialogue group that included former AFNSWAS board member Kayed Khalil. Embracing the perspectives of Mandela, Gandhi and King; and seeing in Gene Sharp's writings about the Politics of Non-violence, a way forward for Israelis and Palestinians, Sidney has worked very hard to convert programs centered on conflict management to programs centered in anti-racism. His support for the full range of groups doing such work is generous and faithful. His political activism and engagement is shared by his family of three daughters and their spouses and provides a life-giving model for his grandchildren.

Thank you, Sidney Topol, for engaging solutions in the Israeli- Palestinian conflict, and making the seemingly impossible possible in this generation.

The Oasis Art Gallery - Opening hearts and minds, renewing trust



Located in the Fred Segal Library for Peace, the Oasis Gallery invites Palestinian and Jewish artists to exhibit their work together, becoming a bridge to connect peoples traditionally in conflict. Visitors to the gallery 'meet' art that presents new points of view and ideas that transcend stereotypes.

Artists Host Artists

18 Palestinian and Jewish artists, who don't usually encounter each other, opened their doors and worked together at Ahmad Canaan's gallery in Tamra, and again at the studio of Nihad Dabeet in Ramle.

One brush connected us, and we found a way to express ourselves in vibrant colors. ... we met Jewish and Arab artists from all over the country. It was truly a special day. (Palestinian Artist, Sahar Bdarneh)

The main thing is the human connection and the joint artistic effort, and that's what it is here. (Jewish Artist, Yuri Atzmon)

Exhibitions that open eyes:

Two exhibitions, "1967-2017: 50 Years of Occupation" and "Barriers to Peace" both with Israeli Palestinian and Jewish artists, were attended by regional and international visitors. Two further exhibitions are planned for 2018, along with three artist- encounter workshops.

Primary School - Renewing the Spirit of Democracy

The Student's Campaign and the Democratic Process

The new Primary School Library and Digital Learning Center grew out of studying democracy! Students had to identify a project that they could “do” from start to finish. They wrote letters, marched with placards, held meetings and presented a petition to their Primary School Board of Directors. Adults took notice and the miracle of the democratic process became visible. The Library and Digital Learning Center is the outcome of patient and persistent democracy in action.



Renewing the spirit through music!

The Music Program continues to reach out, thanks to the Max and Sunny Howard Foundation. Traditional and classical instruments were purchased and two classrooms completely renovated for learning music. Between 3rd and 4th grade, the children try options- an oud, a recorder, perhaps a guitar- and then choose the one they want to learn to play well. Plenty of practice space, school and community performances, and visiting Palestinian and Jewish musicians offer a taste of what might lie ahead.

Curriculum Development- Renewing our commitment to making an impact beyond the school

The Primary School's new curriculum uses an interdisciplinary approach, developing young scholars connected to their own identities and respectful of world cultures. With the comprehensive teacher- training workshop for mixed groups of Jewish and Arab teachers, the curriculum will become available to teachers in other bilingual/binational schools and in separate Jewish and Arab schools.

The Primary School was selected for a pilot program- an incubator for new pedagogical approaches. Five other leading educational institutions were also chosen, but Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is the only primary school! The program enables the curriculum to become applicable to schools internationally.

Spiritual Center - Renewing the Spirit of Community Engagement



The Spiritual Center, always a home for interfaith dialogues and encounters, study of sacred texts and journeys for young adults, now brings the wider community in for learning through book launches and films, engaging the audience in a lively exchange of ideas, perspectives and experiences. Recent events: Dr. Adel Manna's new book: "Nakba and Survivor: The Story of the Palestinians Remaining in Haifa and the Galilee, 1948-1956", Prof. Yair Auron's recent book, 'Rescuers of 1929: Stories of Rescued Jews and Palestinians in Hebron and Jerusalem' (which included live conversations with families of survivors), Dr. Alganesc Fesseha's presentation of "The Situation of the African Refugees in Historical Review," film openings included the participation of the directors: "In Her Footsteps", Directed by Rana Abu Frecha and "My Friend Yaniv", by NSWAS member Maayan Schwartz. ...and for families, the launch of "Children Laugh," by Zakaria Tamer to be held on April 4th. Children will read the story in Hebrew and Arabic and consider children's potential to resist oppression.

School for Peace: Renewing the Spirit of Possibility

Creating Change Agents has been the School for Peace (SFP) focus for several years. With groups of 40 Jewish and Palestinian professionals in Environment, Urban Planning, Journalism, Health Care, Education and Up-and-Coming Politicians, the SFP works around the clock to renew Israel's commitment to human rights and social justice among Israeli citizens and neighbors. The first group of USAID –funded Jewish and Palestinian Mental Health professionals began their year-long program of encounter, learning, action planning and collaborations. In May, the School for Peace will launch an exciting 8-month course for Women leading Social Change using Social Media. Forty Jewish and Arab women will focus on challenges that most deeply affect women and communities.

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strengthening a shared society between Palestinians and Jews
through education, engagement and activism.***



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The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

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