

Honorary Council

David Hitchcock
 Khalil Jahshan
 Hani Masri
 Naomi Shihab Nye
 Shibley Telhami

Board of Directors

Joan Waller
 Co-President

Rev. Gordon Webster
 Co-President

Deborah First
 Secretary

Judy Dubin

Strategic Planning &
 Development Committee
 Chair

Herb Adelman
 Treasurer

Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels
 Gordie Fellman
 Richard Goodwin
 Robert Green
 Rola Karam
 Barbara Ridberg
 Judith Tuller
 Susan Lurie Zaslavsk

Ted First, Co Treasurer

Abir Elzowidi
 Director of the American
 Friends/NSWAS National
 Office

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been! In 2019, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam's Oasis Art Gallery has hosted 53 Palestinian and Jewish artists from Israel who took part in 8 exhibitions including *Refugees*, *Barriers to Peace*, *50 years of Occupation*, *Non-Violence Action*, *Fragrance of the South* (Bedouin artists) and is looking ahead to *Sculpture Tells* (coming soon). More than one hundred artists from both sides took part in the Gallery's Artists hosting Artists projects, more than one thousand(!) international artists have lent support and encouragement to the programs and hundreds of visitors make their way to each exhibit.

The Spiritual Center's new Community Cinema Project has attracted dozens of newcomers from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem who come to see and have conversation about films dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or social issues affecting Israeli society. Every one of the 10 films shown was followed by a conversation with the film's director. The 2020 season will have the support of the Regional Council and the Israeli Academy of Film and Television. 2020 will continue, as last year, to see several book launches and will add "Interfaith Encounters" project in collaboration with Rabbis for Human Rights.

The Executive Director of Shalom/Achshav (Peace Now) is a graduate of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam's School for Peace, and the graduates of the Change Agents courses continue to move into leadership roles in their organizations. Bar-Ilan University is the most recent University to make available the School for Peace courses, and the Primary School has been named an outstanding school in the Jerusalem district and a National Education Award finalist.

There continues to be a substantial waiting list for community membership, and this past year there were 10,000 international and domestic (Israeli) visitors to the village! Join us in celebrating Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam: a hope, a living laboratory, a community and a powerful multiplier of ideas that work. Make your contribution toward sustaining the work and move peace-building toward the tipping point! Your support keeps peace-building alive.

Joan Waller and Gordon Webster, *AFNSWAS Co-Presidents*



A M E R I C A N F R I E N D S O F
Neve Shalom  *Wahat al-Salam*
נווה שלום 
O A S I S O F P E A C E

YEAR END APPEAL - 2019

2019 began with a call to action and the community's overwhelming response. The decision of the United States government to withdraw all funding from projects engaging with Palestinians from the West Bank or Gaza resulted in the School for Peace's loss of funding for a program for Mental Health Change Agents. Because you care about transforming this conflict, we were able to send the 'missing' \$150,000 needed to enable the Mental Health Change Agents Professionals course to finish strong giving its graduates the tools they need to make, knowing that their work matters.

Meanwhile, interest in the transformative experience that is Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam continues to rise. A new segment of the village is under construction which will accommodate some—but not all—of the many families who wish to live and raise families in a place where peace is not a buzzword but a lived reality.

The arts always play a critical role in fostering a sense of shared humanity and creating connections between people—even those who may never meet in person. The Spiritual Center's Community Cinema project, which pairs film screenings with directorial discussions, has drawn in film buffs from all over the region. The Oasis Art Gallery continues to prompt difficult and necessary conversations with powerful exhibits like November's Hajar series on violence against women.



Construction site for the new area of NSWAS.

The Primary School is experiencing another year of growth. The community is developing a network of bilingual/multicultural schools – each modeled on the Primary School -which will be able to use the Primary School's new bilingual, binational and multicultural curriculum, developed over the past three years and highlighting their innovative approach to bilingual and multicultural learning. It is now being published in Arabic, Hebrew, and English. The school's increasing numbers of applicants provides a challenge for accommodating the increasingly complex transportation needs of those admitted. The school is also exploring, at the request of alumni and parents, a gradual expansion into a regional middle and high school, eventually requiring the creation of new buildings. The growth in bilingual schools and the increasing numbers of applicants provide powerful evidence of the Primary School's long-term impact!

Visitors to the Gallery take in the mu'allaqat exhibition.





Some Primary School graduates sustain what they've been learning through the Nadi, the village's youth club. Under the guidance of the Director Lihi Joffe, the Nadi has been expanding its reach to include activities that promote dialogue and growth—most recently the theatre program, which is run by actress and lifelong village resident Yasmin Bar Shalom Agmon. Yasmin, who grew up in the village, was thrilled to be able to give back to the community that raised her, and expand upon NSWAS's activities. The theatre group has put on one play for the community and is currently rehearsing another with plans to perform not only in the village but in surrounding towns!



Primary School students starting the day with assembly.



Lihi Joffe (right) and Yasmin Ben Shalom Agmon (left) talk about the future of the Nadi.

In a time of shifting dynamics and uncertain futures, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam's core mission remains unchanged: that Arabs and Jews can live side by side, creating communities of peace and mutual respect. In the words of Sama Daoud, who grew up in the village:

"It's like a marriage. Sometimes you should give up things so the other will be okay, to balance the relationship. Both sides, Palestinians and Jews, don't want to give up on anything, and they are not open to try. At Neve Shalom/Wahat-Salam, we are willing to share so that we both can gain a future of peace."

YOUR SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO NSWAS

The programs and the people they serve, from school-children to professionals, are all committed to transforming the conflict. Your support makes their work possible. Your support inspires hope, provides real-time evidence and models a future where both peoples thrive. Together, we can make peace possible.



Because you Believe in Peace

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF
Neve Shalom  *Wahat al-Salam*
ואהת אל שלום  واحة السلام
O A S I S O F P E A C E

The American Friends of NSWAS
229 North Central Ave Ste. 401
Glendale, CA 91203-3541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 409
Jamestown, NY

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

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.

The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

229 N. Central Ave Ste. 401 Glendale, CA 91203-3541

Phone: (818) 662-8883 Email: afnswas@oasisofpeace.org

Donate: www.oasisofpeace.org/donate

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. Official registration and financial information of American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.