



American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that works, every day, toward supporting a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis. We believe the best way to achieve such a peace is to develop support for and publicize the life-changing projects of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, a community of Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel who have chosen to live and work together as equals.

With 40 years of experience and a growing global community, the educational institutions of Neve Shalom/ Wahat al-Salam work continuously to create and sustain active, problem-solving dialogue on social, cultural, and political issues, dedicating its efforts to promoting trust, mutual understanding and respect well beyond its own borders.

Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam's institutions - the bilingual/binational/multicultural Primary School with its new Library and Music rooms, the School for Peace, the Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center and the new Museum and Oasis Art Gallery - work to serve the village and beyond, reaching thousands of Jewish and Palestinian youth and adults each year, and tens of thousands in total.

The Village has won several international awards and been nominated five times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

Letter from the President

Dear supporters,

Thank you for your interest and support for the Oasis of Peace, living, working and changing lives even as it is in the center of a region of ongoing conflict and growing mistrust. Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (NSWAS) continues to grow in numbers (membership, students and visitors) and impact. Recent elections at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam have resulted in some newer members taking leadership roles in their municipal and educational governance. At American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the Board of Directors and the small office staff continued to explore new ways to maximize our mission of supporting the work of NSWAS. In the past five years, we have worked both without and with an Executive Director, finding strengths in each structure. By the end of the fiscal year 2017, and after extensive conversations with our supporters and other charitable organizations both in the US and Europe, the Board of Directors is piloting what we believe will be a strategy and structure more effective in utilization of funds, more effective in our capacity to educate and more effective in our outreach out to those who would want to support the mission of the Oasis of Peace if only they knew about it!

We recognize that experiments can bring some dead-ends and result in some loss of income but we are seeing that it has also brought significant benefits. Among the most valued of those benefits has been the increased communication with, and learning from, our supporters. We will need to wait until the analysis for our 2017-2018 Annual Report, to see the outcomes of the planning and implementation strategies. Until then this 2016-2017 Annual Report gives you a picture of what worked, what was accomplished on the ground and a sense of the experience of the beneficiaries of your support.

Thank you for your support and partnership as we support the work of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, strengthening the possibility of a shared society between Jews and Palestinians.

Rev. Gordon Webster, President AFNSWAS

Our Context:

Continued, long-term and seemingly politically intractable conflict about resources, land use, borders, refugee status and civilian rights has had a measurable impact on donor enthusiasm for supporting those programs that honor the rights, responsibilities and narratives of both Israel's Palestinians and Jews, while also recognizing and implementing projects that are intended to alter the impact of Israel's current occupation of the West Bank. We responded to the loss of donor engagement with a substantially intensified program of outreach and education in all forms. The Board of Directors has recently instituted an analysis of our past and present practices regarding donor development, outreach, education, program support and management with an eye to bringing the best of staff, donor and board innovative and longer-term planning to the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

Outreach and Education

The ongoing conflict among Israel's Palestinian and Jewish citizens has resulted in a need for education that counteracts the misinformation and misunderstanding that seems to flourish in these circumstances. AFNSWAS staff have received and responded to the steady flow of requests for speakers from community groups, congregations, professional and religious organizations, and have distributed requested educational materials including high school curricula, videos and reports on research, projects or programs. Each and all of these programs and presentations are provided free of charge regardless of distance needed for staff travel. The programs do not include fundraising requests, focusing instead on generating awareness of the complexity of the region's challenges and the range of audience questions about history, narrative and religious and cultural concerns.

Our website has been redesigned, along with our print and web-based materials and our Facebook presence made more relevant. A design for a Planned Giving Campaign has been temporarily set aside as we strengthen our dedicated program of outreach and education.

AFNSWAS allocated \$ 185,295 in 2016-2017 to support this extensive effort that we see as necessary for future planning.

The Primary School

The Primary School's location, in the heart of Israel's only intentional (and growing) Palestinian/Jewish community, has a profound impact on the student and parents. Whether doing an archaeology project, attending or giving a concert, or harvesting olives together in and with the community, the students and parents hear both languages simultaneously in social settings, they see families attending celebrations together, solving problems together and they understand that the equality and respect they see is the outcome of ongoing and vigilant work.



As the pioneer in bilingual and bicultural education, the Primary School (PS) is in its fourth decade of experiment, research, application, evaluation, reflection and the next cycle of research, serving as the original model for the more recently-developed Hand in Hand and Hagar Schools. The number of children in the Primary School is and will be limited only by the current building's capacity, although its 50% Jewish, 50% Palestinian numbers are being increased sustainably by one additional first grade each year for a planned six years. As in the past, 90% of the students come from 12-15 surrounding towns and villages whose families then become part of extending the voice of Neve Shalom's vision toward equality in a shared society, and a just and durable peace.

In addition to the school's full academic and linguistic curriculum, we highlight

- Student advocacy, on current concerns, in presentations to the Knesset;
- Student-run annual elections that followed the model of national elections (campaign platforms, ID cards, monitored balloting) which served as an opportunity to model school values, with candidates running in Jewish-Palestinian teams;
- A growing parent community, with both Palestinian and Jewish parents more engaged in classroom and governance;
- A thriving all-school music program including traditional and classical instruments and new practice rooms;
- A flourishing environmental science and greenhouse program;
- An all-school program of environmental art and recycling;
- An upper grades program of writing directed by published authors;
- A design for a renewed Library and new Digital Learning Center

The fifth graders tested in Arabic, Hebrew, English and Math have, as in the past, demonstrated the considerable and comparative strength of the Primary School's educational model. AFNSWAS provided grants totaling \$168,900 to support the Primary School in 2016-2017.



The School for Peace



Since its founding in 1979, the School for Peace (SFP) has become the gold standard in cross-border and within Israel peace-building programs. Its impact beyond Israel's borders has been seen in the growing cooperation among Palestinians and Jewish professionals who have participated in SFP Change Agents courses for Health Professionals, Environmental Planners and Activists, Mental Health professionals and Journalists.

In recent years, the SFP has deepened its reach into Israeli and Palestinian societies, targeting groups of people who will have a significant impact in their communities. Since its establishment, more than 80,000 Jews and Palestinians have connected through the SFP programs.

In 2016-17, the School for Peace developed youth encounters for Israeli Palestinian and Jewish high school students, began the fourth session of their annual facilitator training course and initiated a Change Agents course for 30 Jewish and Palestinian architects and engineers, planned by the School for Peace with the Arab Center for Alternative Planning. Their University - based courses continue to include new colleges, while maintaining their long - term commitments such as their 27-year partnership with Tel-Aviv. The SFP organized an international conference on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and their two-year course for Jewish and Palestinian literature teachers, "Teachers Bringing Change - Two Peoples Write from Right to Left," has continued to evolve and engage Jewish and Palestinian educators across Israel.

Continuing to serve as major catalyst, putting dialogue into action for participants of all ages, nationalities, and professions, the School for Peace has completed research on the long-term impact of the SFP programs on participants' lives and is preparing the manuscript for publication. One substantial grant was awarded to the School for Peace from USAID for \$1,000,000.



AFNSWAS provided a grant of \$10,000 to the SFP in 2016-2017.



Pluralistic Spiritual Center



Since 2001, the Pluralistic Spiritual Center has provided a home for spiritual and humanistic reflection on issues at the core of the Middle East conflict and the search for transformation of the conflict. Its programs focus on inter-religious and inter-cultural encounter, study and dialogue. The Pluralistic Spiritual Center implements several programs such as “Massa-Massar,” which takes young Israeli Jews and Palestinians to symbolic places in Israel to reflect on their common heritage. Community events, external programs, speakers

and special guests from across the region and around the world, including the Sulha Peace Project and the Forgiveness Project are part of the ongoing work of the Center.

The Peace Museum and its Garden of the Rescuers, both under the oversight of the Spiritual Center, is home to workshops with Jewish and Palestinian artists, lectures, discussions, events and exhibits that are part of Honoring the Righteous.

The volunteer Museum Director is developing plans for a specific space for Palestinian and Jewish artists to work together, interact with visitors and one another and hold exhibitions.



AFNSWAS provided a grant of \$5,875 in 2016-2017 to support the work of the Spiritual Center and the Peace Museum.



The World Peace College

The Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam World Peace College, in partnership with University of Massachusetts –Boston and its Graduate Program in Conflict Resolution, looked forward to welcoming its first class in the fall of 2016. An international student body was expected to join Israeli Palestinians and Jews for the two-year program leading to a Masters Degree in Conflict Resolution from UMass/Boston. There have been several years of preparative work including the registration and licensing of an entirely new program in Israel, curriculum development, faculty recruitment and scholarship support.

What was not under the control of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam was the impact of the escalating war between the IDF and Gaza. The degree of uncertainty around questions of safety was paramount in recruitment conversations and it was not possible to make long-term assurances. It was determined that there was no way forward at this time. What would have been the youngest institution at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, at the cutting edge of both the conflict and the research emerging from the village’s ‘living’ laboratories, has been laid down.

AFNSWAS provided no funds for the Peace College in 2016-2017.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets:

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

	Year Ended August 31,	
	2017	2016
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$ 357,540	\$ 519,346
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	6,544	16,671
Other operating revenue	203	188
Total operating revenues and other support	364,287	536,205
Operating expenses:		
Program services	369,995	455,887
Support	70,823	69,405
Fundraising	51,847	56,650
Total operating expenses	492,665	581,942
Operating loss	(128,378)	(45,737)
Other:		
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	14,653	(4,740)
Net assets released from restrictions	30,000	-
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	(83,725)	(50,477)
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Investment income (expense) from donor restricted investments	47,726	20,064
Net assets released from restrictions	(30,000)	-
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	17,726	20,064
Change in net assets	(65,999)	(30,413)
Net assets at beginning of year	947,669	978,082
Net assets at end of year	\$ 881,670	\$ 947,669

Statement of Position:

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

	August 31,	
	2017	2016
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 98,180	\$ 148,010
Investments - other	3,296	75
Prepaid expenses	1,909	-
Total current assets	103,385	148,085
BOARD DESIGNATED ASSETS		
Investments - board designated	214,553	267,973
DONOR RESTRICTED ASSETS		
Investments held for endowment purposes	517,115	499,389
OTHER ASSETS		
Promises to give	50,000	50,000
Security deposits	800	800
Total assets	\$ 885,853	\$ 966,247
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,036	\$ 3,115
Accrued retirement contribution	2,147	-
Accrued payroll	-	15,463
Total current liabilities	4,183	18,578
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	150,002	180,307
Board designated	214,553	267,973
Temporarily restricted	153,334	135,608
Permanently restricted	363,781	363,781
Total net assets	881,670	947,669
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 885,853	\$ 966,247

Honorary Advisory Council

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski
Sara Ehrman
David Hitchcock
Khalil Jahshan
Hani Masri
Hon. Richard Murphy
Naomi Shihab Nye

Board of Directors

Rev. Gordon Webster, President
Joan C. Waller Co-President
David Matz , Vice President
Judy Dubin, Vice President
Deborah First, Secretary
Herb Adelman, co-Treasurer
Gordie Fellman
Richard Goodwin
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Rima Mahmoud
Barbara Ridberg
Judith Tuller
Susan Zaslavsky

Ted First, Treasurer

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 the AFNSWAS Executive Director, 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: www.oasisofpeace.org/newsletters-and-activity-reports

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

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