

SPRING 2017



واحة السلام
נוה שלום
oasis of peace



Primary School students celebrating their new library and computer room

REACHING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

LEARNING TO STAND TOGETHER

In our Primary School, we encourage the students to use their voices in unity. Last Spring, the students did just that when they wanted new computers. Inspired by a lesson in democracy, the students petitioned, organized and protested for a much-needed updated library to the administration. Now, a year later, **with the support of donors like you, the Primary School is celebrating the opening of the new library and computer lab!**

Students saw how their actions can shape the future. Now that the students have experienced some success, they have started another petition. This time they have enlisted friends and family to sign their request that the Primary School be expanded to include middle school and high school. With your support, the dream of expanding integrated education through high school could become a reality.

MUSIC MATTERS

At the Primary School, students are always active participants in each other's culture. **This year, students are experiencing each other's culture through music** which creates opportunities for individual expression, facilitates language learning and builds common experiences across cultural boundaries.

Although music has always been a part of the curriculum, a more formal structure for music education has been introduced, and the students love it. They have set their sights on creating a school ensemble that celebrates Palestinian and Jewish musical identities. **You could help the music program grow and expand into an ensemble of ambassadors of peace.** Our students have the will, but they need you to help them on the way.

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.

Please support the projects of NSWAS by making a donation today.

WE ARE GROWING!

Over the past two years, **school enrollment is up 46%**! Thanks to continued support from donors, one additional first grade class has been enrolled each year for the past three years, allowing the Primary School to offer a comprehensive, egalitarian education, including scholarships where needed, to children inside and outside of the village.

Your support gives children the opportunity to experience the richness of inclusive, bicultural education offered at the Primary School. Thank You!



OASIS OF PEACE WELCOMES 10 NEW FAMILIES

Plans are in place to break ground for **10 new homes in the village!** Members welcomed the recently accepted applicants with a festive pot luck celebration. **When our new members move in there will be exactly 100 member families in the village!** Thank you for being a part of the journey that began with a couple of wood huts on a hill and a dream of an oasis of peace.



With over 400 signatures, the petition has been submitted to the Ministry of Education and to the Municipal council.

SCHOOL FOR PEACE GRADUATES ORGANIZE

Organizing is the starting line for real social change. **But how do you get two people who live at odds to join forces for justice?** Just ask a School for Peace graduate! **The SFP trains participants to connect and network across cultures and issues to advance equality.** Graduates from our Urban Planners and Architects course have found strength in the binational, professional community they have created and they will no longer be silent in the face of injustice. Today, that injustice is the destruction of Palestinian villages.

In an open letter to PM Netanyahu, **Jewish and Palestinian SFP graduates of the planners and architects course are calling for an end to the demolitions, and for an immediate advancement of fair planning policies to meet the needs of the growing Palestinian population.** Standing in solidarity with Palestinian families in their endangered villages, raising their voices on the streets of Tel Aviv and Kalanswa with thousands of protesters and working with local municipalities to adopt fair planning and permit practices, the **SFP graduates can be found on the front lines of the fight for justice and equality.**

"We are, of course, an integral part of this land, yet in this country we live on the margins ... You can't just complain all the time about the reality without trying to do something about it; we have to go out there and try to change the reality, our reality."-Palestinian participant

"...when I ... see Palestinians from the community who are angry at the establishment, there is something more natural in my identification with that anger...I can't just ignore it now."-Jewish participant



J. ZEL LURIE 1913-2017

A LEGACY OF PEACE



On April 10th, 2017, the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam said goodbye to our dear friend, J. Zel Lurie. Throughout his lifetime, **Zel was dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Palestinians and Jews.** As a journalist and co-founder of American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, he tirelessly promoted peace through his words and actions. At 103 years of age, Zel left behind an inspiring legacy as well as a hole in our hearts.

Forty years ago, Zel came to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam for the first time. He immediately saw what was possible if the focus was on both peoples together finding ways- especially in the midst of surrounding conflict - to live and work with one another in equality and mutual respect.

From the moment Zel saw the Primary School, **he understood**

that integrated education as early as possible was going to be key to finding the way forward. When Zel found himself able to offer financial support, he focused on a new school building that could grow along with the expanding Primary School applications.

“In the next ten years, I want to see the Primary School grow, able to bring in more children. I want it to continue to be a model for how Jews and Arabs can live and learn and grow together.”



Zel's hopes became a reality. However, he knew welcoming increasing numbers of hopeful applicants meant that there must be increasing financial support. **Zel made a commitment to fund a teacher's salary every year as his way of supporting the kind of future that he wanted for his own family.** He wanted to support a future filled with justice, equality and respect for one another.



For all these years, we have been standing on his shoulders, taking encouragement and guidance. Now it is our turn and yours to become the shoulders for the next generation.

In honor of Zel's lifetime of commitment to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, let us together create a living legacy that will build a future of inclusion, equality and a just, peaceful coexistence. Please consider a gift today in honor of his life's work.

Reaching Beyond Boundaries



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BECAUSE TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING PEACE A REALITY

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Please support the projects of NSWAS by making a donation today

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