

Fall 2017



A Word from the President of American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

Dear Friends,

This fall, the Primary School at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam has a lot to celebrate. Families came together over the summer to open up the Early Childhood Center. How wonderful that one of the new preschool teachers was a former Primary School student! Marwa, who graduated from the Primary School 25 years ago, is excited to return to the school that made such a difference in her life. And Marwa's 3rd grade daughter is now enrolled in the Primary School experiencing the same kind of shared community and education that inspired her mother to come back and make a difference.



But the school year didn't start out that smoothly for one of the 1st grade classes. In fact, it almost never happened....

Nineteen Jewish families were told by their regional council that their children would not be allowed to commute in order to attend The Primary School. This unprecedented decision would cost those Jewish students and their families the experience of a fully inclusive and integrated education.

...but then these families, fiercely dedicated to the idea that an egalitarian, binational, bilingual education was important for their children and the children of the Palestinian families, mounted a legal challenge to the regional council. Broad support was awakened through local activism, media stories and contact with public officials **and it worked!**

continued on back

Many years before I was born, an immigrant wrote a short story for his school magazine. The story, "The Song of John" was about a young idealist who dreamed of a world in which people of different backgrounds and beliefs lived in peace and harmony. After the story was published and within my lifetime, came the Holocaust followed by the horrific Genocides in Africa, Asia and Europe. I nevertheless continue to believe (that) idealists can change the world. In memory of my father Philip Chapman, and his Song of John, I support Neve Shalom/Wahat al Salam.

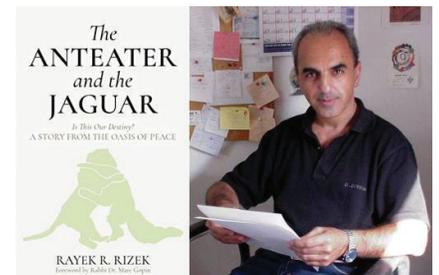
Warmest Regards, Linda (AFNSWAS donor)

Changing the political climate in Israel to include voices for peace and equality is central to transforming the conflict. Is it the School for Peace's program for upcoming Israeli and Palestinian politicians, now in its third year working with future politicians who will give voice to a diverse political landscape?



or it is NSWAS's week-long summer camp program for 32 families from the Arab village of Bil'in which holds peaceful protests every week? The entire NSWAS community participated that week, as families from Bil'in became part of living in a shared society.

or is it what happens when there is deep listening - a core part of life in NSWAS –and long-time community member Rayek Rizek, from the vantage point of his Ahlan Cafe at the community's entrance, shares his life at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam in his new book *The Anteater and the Jaguar*?



Your donations make you a part of the Oasis of Peace community too. Every program, every event, every helping hand that Neve Shalom/Wahat-al-Salam extends is made possible by donors like you. Please join Linda with your support and donate today. Let the Primary School, the School for Peace and the community members know that its American Friends stand with them.

Now that's a good first step in building a supportive, shared society!

Rev. Gordon Webster, President AFNSWAS

Planned Giving:

Are you dedicated to peace building and the work of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam? Do you want to leave a legacy that continues your commitment? A bequest or a planned gift to AFNSWAS keeps your commitment alive.



The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

229 N. Central Ave Ste. 401, Glendale, CA 91203-3541 Phone:(818) 662-8883

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