

Fall 2008

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF
Neve Shalom  *Wahat al-Salam*
נווה שלום  واحة السلام
OASIS OF PEACE



Summer Camp for the children of Tulkarem at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam - July 2008

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

Dear Friends,

The American Friends is entering its 20th year this fall. For two decades, you have helped us support the important work of the unique community of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam to be an example of what peace in the Middle-East could look like.

While progress is made, there continues to be work ahead to reach peace. NSWAS and its institutions - the School for Peace, the Primary School and the Pluralistic Spiritual Center - want to keep implementing innovative programs and improving the more familiar ones, and they need our support to continue doing so.

This September, the Primary School opens another academic year. With the Ministry of Education cut in funding, we will need to increase our contributions. In 2007, with your help, the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam was able to provide nearly one

third of the cost of educating more than 200 of Israel's Jewish and Palestinian Arab school children. You will have an opportunity to learn about two of these children - Raz and Sa'eed - in this newsletter. We hope you will consider helping them and the rest of the children be part of the future by supporting their education at the Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam Primary School.

At NSWAS, there are programs for all of us to connect with and to help sustain so that we can all be part of creating the future.

Yours,

Gordon Webster, President

Judith Tuller, Vice President

Kayed Sobhi Khalil, Vice President

Frank Rubinfeld, Vice President



Ways and Reasons to donate

There are many ways to make a donation: you can send us a check or fill the attached card with your credit card information. You can also donate via our secure website where you can opt for a one-time donation or a monthly gift.

Our organization is diligent with your donations. We are proud to receive a 3-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. We are verified by Guidestar and you can research us at Network for Good.

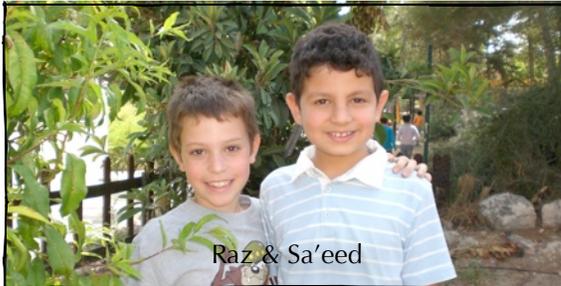
Thank you for everything you do to support the "Oasis of Peace" !

Sa'eed and Raz: loving school together

For three years now, Sa'eed and Raz, both eight year old boys in the 3rd grade, have taken the bus every day.

Sa'eed's family are Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel; Raz's family are Jewish citizens of Israel.

Sa'eed's mom is a social worker and his dad is a senior manager at the Central Bureau of Statistics in Jerusalem. The family has decided they want to live in Wahat al-Salam/ Neve Shalom and raise their children there, and they



have become candidates for membership. "I like to come to school," Sa'eed says, "mostly I like school – especially sports and English class. I'm not crazy about Arabic class. Why do I have to study Arabic anyway? Arabic is my first language. At school, I want to study things I don't know yet, like English, and science!"

"Raz is my best friend," Sa'eed explains. "We used to sit together all the time. Then the teachers thought we needed to pay better attention in class, so they gave us seats farther away from each other. But we spend all our time together at recess."

Raz is the youngest of four – he has two older brothers and an older sister, all of whom have been students at the Primary School. His mom is a dietician and his dad works for a sun-proofed windows company.

"I'm not so crazy about school but I do like sports and English. I can't stand science and math. School was more fun when Sa'eed and I sat together, but we are still together most of the day.

"We also invented a game of our own. We call it Cheese Fingers! This is how we got to be best friends to start with. In the first grade, we used to play a game where you have to surprise somebody with something they like. Kids always used to give Sa'eed things that he didn't like. Then someone

gave him a bag of Cheese Fingers (the snack) and he thought it was yucky. But all the kids said to him: 'Come on, Sa'eed, taste it! Taste it!' So he did. And he loved it!"

Raz has been giving Sa'eed packets of Cheese Fingers ever since. It's their own private game, and they never get tired of it.

At the end of the school day, the boys get back on the bus for the ride home, each to his own community. Raz and Sa'eed's school is the first-ever binational, bilingual,

multicultural school in the region, and it is located in the only intentional Jewish-Arab village, NSWAS. The Primary School has served Arab and Jewish children for the last 24 years, with most of the students now coming to school by bus from about 20 surrounding Jewish and Arab towns and villages.

As more and more parents hope that their children will have a chance to learn in this exceptional environment, **we need to give their commitment to peace all the encouragement and support we can. Lend them a hand and make a donation to support this coming year at the Primary School.**

The school has a unique setting with small size classes and two teachers per class, which raises its costs. This year 220 children are enrolled.

The Ministry of Education provides less than 15% of the school's income, and so **the school must rely a lot on people like you** who decide to help peace become a reality for Jewish and Palestinian children.

It is thanks to you that **the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam has been able to provide more than 32% of the educational costs.**

Quick News from NSWAS

Opening of the Fred Segal Happy Health World Peace Library

The Library, which was made possible thanks to a very generous gift from Mr. Fred Segal, is about to celebrate its opening. In the future, the library will be part of the Peace Campus that will help to extend the work of the village.



The Swimming Pool - Multicultural Fun



As during every summer, the swimming pool at NSWAS remains a place of rendezvous for Arab and Jewish families coming from the entire country. NSWAS offers a place where children can have informal encounters with the "other," and naturally discover their similarities.

The children need your help if they are to be able to continue their education and preparation for peaceful coexistence:

- ★\$18 = School Supplies for one student
- ★\$100 = Computer maintenance for the Language Lab
- ★\$500 = Extra-curricular programs such as the Zoo Lab, Health program, the Archaeology project and more
- ★\$850 = Tuition for one child
- ★\$2,000 = Setting up a new classroom



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