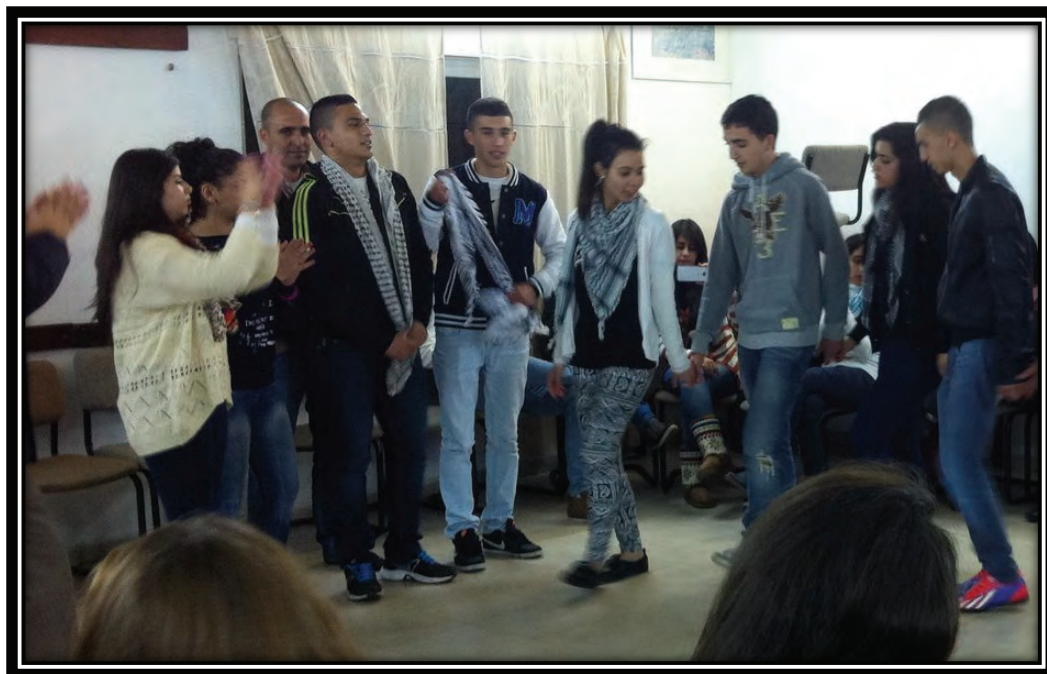


SPRING 2014

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



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PEACE MAKERS

The latest Youth Encounter Workshop, which took place over three days in December, was a dynamic, lively, and inspiring meeting of 62 Jewish and Palestinian high-school students. It was the most successful youth workshop yet in this keystone program of the School for Peace at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam.

30 Palestinian and 32 Jewish participants engaged in open dialogue, games, and simulations designed to make each group more aware of how the other group lives, how they see themselves, and how they are seen by each other.

The first day was devoted to getting to know one another in three small groups. The students discovered that they have much in common. The atmosphere was one of positive curiosity. For many of the youth, it was the first encounter with the "other."



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It was on the third day that the political dialogue began in earnest, with a focus on individual stories and experiences. These candid dialogues can sometimes be uncomfortable, but in the end, each group felt stronger and wiser for having spoken their minds and hearts.

One Palestinian participant said later, "The encounter was important to both sides. [The Jewish group] listened to us and we listened to them. We had arguments, but it is natural. The encounter was a wonderful idea; we learned a lot." The group also put forth a unique idea: that at official ceremonies and events, three national anthems be played: one Jewish, one Palestinian, and a common anthem about equality.

As one Jewish participant said afterwards, "I had an amazing experience that I will not forget. The dialogue caused me to understand that the situation is not simple at all. I hope a day will come when coexistence will be possible and we will reach a compromise and peace."



The Palestinian youth teach the Jewish participants the Dabke, a Palestinian folk dance.

AFNSWAS SUPPORTER PROFILE: Joanna Goodwin Friedman



Joanna Goodwin Friedman was born into an entrepreneurial family in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Today, in addition to leading the Goodwin Foundation, Joanna serves as President of the Middle East Peace Dialogue Network, carrying her father **Richard Goodwin's** vision of peaceful coexistence into the future.

Both Joanna and Richard are longtime supporters of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. They believe that by supporting conflict-resolution organizations and programs, they help build peaceful coexistence in the region.

For more than 30 years, they have supported the Primary School, the School for Peace, and the World Peace College. Joanna appreciates the power of NSWAS, a model of Israeli Jewish and Palestinian cooperation and co-existence. She sees the Village as a crucible in which the very issues that trouble Israel and Palestine are experienced, explored, and managed — on both a communal and a personal level.

"The lessons that emerge are models for many educational and conflict management programs. With people-to-people programs, lives are touched, lives are changed. People begin to make a difference in their own communities. The ripple effect has the potential to reach hundreds of thousands," she observes.

While some say the status quo will never change, the Goodwins take the long view. They firmly believe that each generation has a responsibility to repair, heal, and transform the world. Joanna says, "My father and I know this: each generation must pass on its own vision of peaceful coexistence and the possibility of prosperity to the next. Even if our goals are not achieved in our lifetime, we are proud to have added to a stable foundation for the next generation's work. Continuity and commitment are essential for progress." Joanna finds inspiration in this quote from Hillel: "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?"

A Once-In-a-Lifetime Gift to the Children of the Primary School

A surprise gift came to the Primary School in February: a trove of children's books from **Monica Brown**, an Ohio woman who made the donation in honor of her parents, **Mark** and **Ada Levene**.

The Primary School at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is the perfect recipient of such a gift. The staff and students of this bilingual, bi-national school — the only one of its kind in the region — share a fundamental belief with their benefactor: that literacy plays a critical role in the journey towards a peaceful world. It's one reason why the Primary School has served as a model for the few other such schools that now exist in Israel.



Ms. Brown's message is reiterated — in Arabic, Hebrew, and English — in a plaque commemorating the gift and her family (pictured), as well as in stickers the children placed inside the books. Reading these books together will further the mission of the Primary School, a place where Jewish and Palestinian children learn each other's languages, celebrate each other's holidays, and respect each other's histories.



Getting Creative on Arbor Day

In January, the Primary School students celebrated Tu B'Shvat/Eid I-shajara — the festival of trees. Michal, the arts and crafts teacher, provided plenty of old plastic canisters and other scraps, which were recycled into flowers and flowerbeds. Every team was proud of their creations, which, at the end of the day, sat in a beautifully multicolored row.

Intermingled among the ordinary days of the school year, there are special days that shine — literally and figuratively. On Arbor Day, the School celebrated the trees, and the trees made the children cheerful in return.

Please Support Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam by making a donation

The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam encourages, supports and publicizes the projects of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the "Oasis of Peace." For more than thirty years, NSWAS has been dedicated to dialogue, cooperation and a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis. Learn about the many ways you can support the programs at www.oasisofpeace.org

IN MEMORIAM: Ambassador Sam Lewis



A tireless promoter of peace in the Middle East, **Ambassador Samuel W. Lewis** served on the AFNSWAS Honorary Advisory Council. Mr. Lewis was a career diplomat who, during his eight-year tenure as U.S. Ambassador

to Israel played a major role in negotiating the Camp David peace talks in 1978 that resulted in a historic treaty between Egypt and Israel. Later, in the Clinton State Department, Ambassador Lewis was pivotal in negotiating the Oslo Peace Accords.

After his retirement, Ambassador Lewis — a frequent visitor to the Village — continued to pursue his deep commitment to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He served as counselor at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, president of the U.S. Institute for Peace, and was a founding member of the Israel Policy Forum. He taught at Johns Hopkins, Georgetown University, Tel Aviv University, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

His important work in peace building has affected the lives of millions of people. In his memory, AFNSWAS has set up a special fund. Donations can be made online at www.oasisofpeace.org or can be sent to 12925 Riverside Drive, Suite #230, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423.

AFNSWAS TEAM UPDATES

We welcome three new members to our Board of Directors: **Daniel Schwartz**, **Herb Adelman**, and **Michael Fadil**. Each brings a distinct breadth of experience and knowledge — and a common commitment to peace.

TESTIMONIAL: Women's Dialogue Workshop at the Pluralistic Spiritual Center

A recent workshop brought together 60 Jewish, Muslim, and Druze women, most of whom came from the nearby towns of Ramla and Lod. "The dialogue is an opportunity for the women to learn about each other and their political stands and their personal and national narratives," says director of the Pluralistic Spiritual Center **Dafna Karta Schwartz**.

One participant, **Carmela Yodan-Raanana**, thanked her hosts in a letter that begins, "It was my privilege to participate in this special, touching, and mind-opening experience. Activities [brought] closeness, warmth, willingness to be open, dancing in happiness, and self-discovery." Carmela is proud "to be part of the long journey that will eventually lead to peace!"

Her letter continues: "It was lovely to meet some of the participants and to meet other women full of motivation,



action, contribution and giving." Carmela thanked the organizers of the event for "their blessed work and strong commitment to life in a Jewish-Palestinian village."

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.

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam
12925 Riverside Drive, Suite 230
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
818-325-8884 • afnswas@oasisofpeace.org
Donate online at www.oasisofpeace.org/donate