

**\* DIALOGUE \* COOPERATION \* PEACE \***

## **American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam “Oasis of Peace”**

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, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam has been dedicated to dialogue, cooperation and a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis.

Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel have chosen to live and work together as equals in this community to promote trust, understanding and mutual respect well beyond its own borders.

At Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the bilingual, binational, multicultural Primary School, the School for Peace, the Pluralistic Spiritual Center, the Peace College and other projects, serve the village and beyond reaching thousands of Jewish and Palestinian youth and adults.

The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a not-for-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.



## **Annual Report 2010 - 2011**

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## *Letter from the President*

Dear Friends:

Thank you for supporting the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, the “Oasis of Peace.” This Annual Report covers the fiscal year 2011, from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011. Your continued generosity has been critical to our efforts to support the important work of the “Oasis of Peace,” which, even in challenging times, continues to bring Jews and Palestinians together for life-changing educational programs. We received gifts totaling \$548,809 this fiscal year, thanks to the generosity of friends around the United States. About 1,149 individuals, foundations, federations and congregations contributed to this total with gifts ranging from \$3 to \$50,000.

This fiscal year we sent \$616,061 to Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, primarily to the Primary School and School for Peace (mostly through funds in a grant from the United States Agency for International Development). We continue to support and encourage the programs of the Pluralistic Spiritual Center, of the Youth Club, and of the Humanitarian Aid Program. Grants payable toward the next fiscal year total \$78,350. These funds have been approved by the board and will be sent to the community as needed for various projects.

Our Net Assets Report totals \$1,239,804, a significant amount of which is held in the Board Restricted Fund, which initiated support for the launching of a new program, the Peace College. We maintain a small, hardworking staff of three and are committed to keeping our operating costs low. We rely on the help of our active Board of Directors as well as interns and volunteers. A portion of our budget goes to Administrative and Fundraising costs, which combined this year to total \$170,977 (16.9% of our total expenses, the remaining 83.1% going to our program expenses).

The Board of the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam took a major strategic decision this year: to support the creation of a new program in the village, a Peace College, that will further the impact of the other educational institutions in the region and beyond. Our former Assistant Executive Director, Perrine Vaillant, became Executive Director and Deanna Armbruster, former Executive Director, became our Honorary President and Director of Special Initiatives focusing on the Peace College in cooperation with Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. Our board is more than ever dedicated to support all the educational programs of the “Oasis of Peace” in the coming years. Our staff continues to publicize and support this important, unique community and its work. We look forward to keeping our supporters - individuals and foundations - engaged in the progress of our programs.

Gordon Webster, President

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam



# Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the “Oasis of Peace”

## *Primary School*

The village began offering bilingual, binational education to young children (nursery and kindergarten levels) in the early 1980s. In 1984, the Primary School at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (NSWAS) began to take shape. A binational, bilingual, and multicultural curriculum was developed and the Primary School started accepting children from outside the village, becoming the *first* school of its kind in Israel. Today there are other bilingual schools in Israel based on the NSWAS model, but the "Oasis of Peace" Primary School is the only such school located in a community where Arabs and Jews choose to live together in a commitment to peace and equality.



The school uses its unique pedagogy and binational environment to integrate children from different cultural and religious backgrounds. The children are taught mutual respect and knowledge of one another's culture, traditions and language, as well as principles of equality and peace. The Primary School is recognized for its excellence in education and attracts children from many communities in the region. The curriculum has been enriched with extra-curricular programs, providing a powerful and informal learning experience for the children. The Zoo Lab, the Archaeology Project, Music and the Recycling classes are beloved parts of the children's life at school.



This year, through drastic cuts, the Primary School has restored some financial stability, although it is still threatened by an unpredictable income from the Israeli government and supporters around the world, including the United States.

About 220 children were enrolled in the school in 2010/2011, half Jewish, half Palestinian. Ninety percent of them came from 28 communities around Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. The school remains very attractive to families in the area, and the school is unfortunately unable to enroll all the children who would have liked to attend.



## *School for Peace*

Since its founding in 1979, the School for Peace (SFP) has been central to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam's goal of spreading its message and having a sustained impact outside its borders. Its programs develop the participants' awareness of the nature of the regional conflict and of their role in it by exploring and constructing identity through interaction with the other. The SFP runs programs for youth, women, and professional groups. Since its establishment, more than 50,000 Jews and Palestinians have attended a wide variety of SFP programs.

Most of the programs are long-term programs and focus on raising awareness, helping people crystalize their identities, and take responsibility for their role in the conflict. In recent years, the SFP has evolved to further its impact in the Israeli and Palestinian societies. The programs include empowerment and skill-building objectives and target groups of people who will have a strong impact in the participants' communities: lawyers, politicians, environmentalists, mental health professionals, or teachers. In addition, the SFP has become a platform where activists can communicate and work together.



## *Peace College*

This year, the American Friends worked in partnership with NSWAS to establish a new Peace College in the village. The Fred Segal Friendship Library is home to the college. Its mission is to prepare skilled peace-builders to integrate theoretical models and practical experiences of conflict-reduction and peace-building in regions of conflict. Faculty exchanges, student exchanges, joint research projects, student teaching experiences, internships, and short-term training programs will start for international students and professionals in partnership with top universities and colleges throughout the United States.

The program will also offer a research-based, experiential graduate Master's degree program of Conflict Reduction and Peace Building. Residential courses and an intensive interactive web-based online program for English speaking students from around the world, Israeli citizens and satellite courses offered in the West Bank are being developed. The programs are designed to train reflective professionals through theory and methods, using the experience and knowledge of the "Oasis of Peace."

## *Pluralistic Spiritual Center*

Operating since 2001, the Pluralistic Spiritual Center provides a framework for spiritual reflection on issues at the core of the Middle East conflict and the search for its resolution. Its programs focus on open, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, and the advancement of peace. The Pluralistic Spiritual Center implements several programs such as “Dirasat,” which offers traditional and secular Jews, Christians and Muslims access to the text and tradition of the religious “other.” The “Massa-Massar” program takes young Israeli Jews and Palestinians to symbolic places in Israel to reflect on their common heritage and initiate desire for dialogue and peace among them. This year the Pluralistic Spiritual Center focused on a mediation program in mixed cities in Israel and trained community leaders. It also implemented a series of smaller activities for the community of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam with educational components.

## *Humanitarian Aid Program*

In line with their commitment to a genuine and durable peace, Jews and Palestinians from Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam have started a voluntary Humanitarian Aid Program in the early 2000s. The program provides relief to their Palestinian neighbors.

This year, with great support from American donors, the Program was able to provide sheep for women of the neighboring town of Beit Sira. The women are now using the sheep, their herd and milk as a source of income for their families.



## *Youth Club - Nadi*

In the past few years, the young generation of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, with support from the adults, started the Nadi, a place where the youth of the village can continue to interact and organize activities outside of their respective schools. This year, the Nadi attracted and sustained a small team of experienced, committed and young group leaders. New steps have been taken by the youth themselves and the supervising committee, to strengthen the youth's ownership and initiative of the activities ; the older teenagers in particular have taken a central place in shaping the structure and atmosphere of the center: About sixty young people currently participate in the Nadi's activities, from 1st grade to 12th grade, split in four age groups.

# Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

## Years Ended August 31, 2011 and August 31, 2010

	Year Ended August 31,	
	2011	2010
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$548,809	\$691,736
Federal Grants	\$409,876	\$52,391
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	\$5,373	\$1,870
Other operating revenue	\$937	\$832
<b>Total of revenues and other support</b>	<b>\$964,995</b>	<b>\$746,829</b>
Operating expenses:		
Grants to NSWAS	\$616,061	\$469,665
Program services	\$220,728	\$167,046
Support	\$74,008	\$88,648
Fundraising	\$96,969	\$100,104
<b>Total of operating expenses</b>	<b>\$1,007,766</b>	<b>\$825,463</b>
Operating income (loss)\$	(42,771)	(\$78,634)
Other:		
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	\$45,550	\$34,104
<b>Decrease in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>\$2,779</b>	<b>(\$44,530)</b>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Investment income (loss) from donor restricted investments	\$48,516	\$26,080
Change in net assets	\$51,295	(\$18,450)
<b>Net assets at beginning of year</b>	<b>\$1,188,509</b>	<b>\$1,206,959</b>
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$1,239,804</b>	<b>\$1,188,509</b>

*Copies of the complete financial statements and/or Form 990 are available upon request*

# Statements of Financial Position

## August 31, 2011 and August 31, 2010

	Year Ended August 31, .....	
	2011	2010
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$139,076	\$168,341
Investments in marketable securities	\$717	\$943
Grants receivable - USAID	\$140,214	\$16,381
Promises to give	\$10,366	-
Prepaid expenses	\$500	-
Total current assets	\$290,873	\$185,665
 <b>ASSETS LIMITED AS TO USE</b>		
Board designated	\$595,866	\$649,903
Donor designated	\$430,917	\$382,401
	\$1,026,783	\$1,032,304
 <b>FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Furniture and Equipment	\$2,513	\$5,639
Less accumulated depreciation	(\$2,513)	(\$5,516)
	\$0	\$123
 <b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Security Deposit	\$500	\$1,500
Total assets	\$1,318,156	\$1,219,592
 <b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Grants payable	\$77,485	\$31,083
Accounts payable	\$867	-
Total current liabilities	\$78,352	\$31,083
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$213,021	\$156,205
Board designated	\$595,866	\$649,903
Temporarily restricted	\$67,136	\$18,620
Permanently restricted	\$363,781	\$363,781
Total net assets	\$1,239,804	\$1,188,509
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,318,156	\$1,219,592

*Copies of the complete financial statements and/or Form 990 are available upon request*

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*The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam was founded in the mid-1980s through the efforts of founding Executive Director Iva Kaufman and Board co-Presidents J. Zel Lurie and Dr. Harriet Arnone.*



American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

12925 Riverside Drive, 3rd floor

Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Tel: 818-325-8884 Fax: 818-465-9498

[afnswas@oasisofpeace.org](mailto:afnswas@oasisofpeace.org)

[www.oasisofpeace.org](http://www.oasisofpeace.org)

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Khalil Jahshan

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Hani Masri

Hon. Richard Murphy

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NSWAS Peace College & Other

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