



What Leaders Say About Us

"Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is an inspiration. It is a reminder that peace in the Middle East can be achieved by people of goodwill and vision. The spirit of tolerance and habit of cooperation that it helps to foster are key ingredients to a lasting peace."

General Brent Scowcroft
Former National Security Advisor to
President George H.W. Bush

"I am convinced that the way peace begins is with individuals, one at a time, who long to know the 'other'. Neve Shalom/Wahat Salam provides living proof that individual by individual and family by family Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews can form a COMMUNITY. I am so proud to be part of this effort."

Sara Ehrman
Senior Advisor, Center for Middle East Peace
and Economic Cooperation

"I have watched Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam grow from a handful of huts in 1978 into an extraordinary village where Palestinian and Jewish families prove every day that living together in peace and equality is possible."

Ambassador Samuel W. Lewis,
Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel

"It has been a bad year given the terrible bloodletting in both the Israeli and Palestinian communities for those who want to believe that a negotiated peace will ever be possible in the Middle East. But a peaceful solution will never be achieved by violence or imposed by outsiders. I think that that message has begun to sink in. In the meantime Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam has persevered when so many others have faltered in maintaining its vision of peace and instilling it where it counts most, among the young."

Ambassador Richard Murphy
Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

"The work done at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam becomes more important and indispensable than ever before. The lessons of coexistence, compromise and tolerance taught at the real 'Oasis of Peace' are a ray of hope that these principles will guide the upcoming talks towards a genuine, just, lasting and secure peace for all."

Khalil Jahshan
Lecturer, Pepperdine University

"There are many outstanding programs working for peace and co-existence in the Middle East, but Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam is truly unique. It is not a week's program, or a weekend's experiment. It is Arabs and Jews living their ordinary lives together, sharing the same school, the same town, the same problems. Their identities nonetheless cannot be escaped with conflict all around them. Their experience teaches us much about the challenges of co-existence in environments of conflict."

Shibley Telhami
Professor for Peace and Development,
University of Maryland

"The Oasis of Peace takes the rhetoric of 'people-to-people' peacemaking and turns it into a daily reality. Good doesn't always conquer evil but, the Oasis of Peace shows that with goodwill and hard work it certainly can."

Robert Satloff
Executive Director, Washington Institute for
Near East Policy

"More than ever before, the noble and imaginative efforts by Neve Shalom to bring together Israelis and Arabs in an atmosphere of cooperation and friendship deserve to be encouraged."

Elie Wiesel, Andrew W. Mellon Professor
in the Humanities, Boston University

"Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a constructive and effective endeavor for enabling not only children and high school students to examine their personal views and biases, but also enabling teachers, lawyers, women leaders, and journalists to understand their own views and roles in society."

Shoshana Cardin, Past Chairman,
Conference of Presidents of
Major Jewish Organizations

"One project now helping people long in conflict learn about each other and thus find themselves is the experimental village of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. Step by step, this small village is spreading the idea that there is a better way to deal with the conflict. Such a noble effort has earned our deep admiration and support."

Hani Masri, Chairman
Capital Investment Management Corporation



What the Media Say About Us

"Its existence and continuing success through times of conflict, violence and despair is extremely important for our time, since it proclaims that, even in the Middle East, peace is possible."

The Concord Journal – November 20, 2008

"These future citizens of Israel are nurtured in an environment far removed from that of their peers beyond the village boundaries. They have pride in their own identity alongside a tolerance of that of their neighbor. They are growing up in the knowledge that such co-existence is both achievable and necessary for the future stability of their country."

Church Times – June 6, 2008

"For over two decades, the School for Peace has been a dynamic center of peace education and research. Over 35,000 youth and adults have participated in SFP workshops."

Briefly in Tompkins – November 7, 2008

"We live in equality and respect. We didn't come here to change Jews or for Jews to change Arabs, but to show we can live co-habit and empathize."

Weblog Without a road map – travels in Israel and Palestine – April, 7, 2007

"In the kindergarten (ages 2 to 4), two teachers are reading the same story to a dozen kids. Dana Ofer is reading the page in Hebrew, then Sawsan Garh the same page in Arabic. All the children are listening to them intently."

BabelMed – June 29, 2008 by Marie Medina

"Hope for peace in Israel/Palestine comes from the people, not the 'leaders.' "Our work is in the field – at the grassroots. It is there that hope arises," said Ahmad [Hijazi]. "Both people want freedom and dignity and each must recognize that desire in the other. Both people are tired and want a solution. That is my hope and my belief."

Positive News, Winter 2008

"The sounds from the playground are almost idyllic. Kicking a somewhat deflated soccer ball around, a group of pupils cheer in Arabic, comment in Hebrew and praise each other on goals using in the first of the two languages that pops into their minds during the heat of the game. A little bit further down, a mixed bunch of Palestinian and Jewish kids spend recess on the lawn, chatting and laughing together until it's time to hit the books again."

Radio Netherlands Worldwide – September 5, 2008

American Friends of Neve Shalom/ Wahat al-Salam

The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is dedicated to dialogue, cooperation and a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis by encouraging, supporting and publicizing the projects of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the "Oasis of Peace." For more than thirty years, Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel have lived and worked together as equals in this community.

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