

*** 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, 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 2009 - 2010

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Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

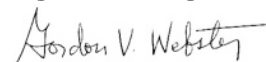
Thank you for supporting the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, the “Oasis of Peace.” This Annual Report covers the fiscal year 2010, from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010. Your continued generosity has been critical to our efforts to support the important work of the “Oasis of Peace,” which, even in the most difficult of times, continues to bring Jews and Palestinians together for dialogue and education. We received gifts totaling \$691,736 this fiscal year, thanks to the generosity of friends around the United States. About 1,283 individuals, foundations, federations and congregations contributed to this total with gifts ranging from \$3 to \$100,000.

This fiscal year we sent \$469,665 to Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, primarily to the Primary School and School for Peace. We continue to encourage the programs at the Pluralistic Spiritual Center and of the Youth Club, and sent a small amount of funding for the community's Humanitarian Aid for Palestinians program. This year saw the finalization of the Fred Segal Friendship Library. Grants payable toward the next fiscal year total \$31,083. 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 \$1,188,509, a significant amount of which is held in the J. Zel Lurie Fund, the interest from which provides support for teacher salaries at the Primary School. We maintain a small, hardworking staff of four 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 \$188,752.

Our main focus again this year was to sustain the important educational programs of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. The Primary School, the School for Peace and the Pluralistic Spiritual Center all had to run their programs with limited budgets and many projects had to be downsized or even cancelled. In the United States too, we had to cancel outreach activities such as our tours with village representatives, and our administrative budget was reduced to make sure as much money as possible was sent to the educational programs in the village. Our dedicated staff continues to do its best to gather support from individuals and foundations.

We remain committed to doing our best to publicize and support this important, unique community and its work now and well into the future.



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 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, demonstrating equality without exclusion, discrimination, alienation or barriers.

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, equality and peaceful principles. The Primary School is recognized for its excellence in education and attracts children from thirty 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 and the Recycling class are beloved parts of the children’s life at school.

In 2009/2010, the school had to reduce its enrollment to 210 children due to financial cuts, 90% of whom come from outside the village.



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 School for Peace runs programs for youth, women, and professional groups. Since its establishment, approximately 50,000 Jews and Palestinians have attended a wide variety of SFP programs.

These programs reach high school students, teachers, university students, educators, mental health experts, doctors and other professionals. The SFP conducts courses jointly with Israeli university and colleges. It is a training center in the field of political education in Israel and its facilitator-training courses are highly acclaimed. Many graduates are now leading figures in NGOs and other organizations dealing with Jewish-Arab relations and with social change.

This year, the School for Peace was awarded a new grant from the United States Agency for International Development to implement a program targeting Israeli and Palestinian journalists, environmentalists and up-and-coming politicians.



The village also inaugurated the Fred Segal Friendship Library which will serve as a resource and educational center for local and international academics, personnel from peace NGOs and others interested in the field of peace studies and education. The Friendship Library is the first ever regional library dedicated to peace and wellness and the only specialized library in the country focusing on peace and conflict resolution on an international scholarly level. Its collection will be multilingual and multidisciplinary, including resources from sociology, political science, psychology, history, and related legal issues.

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 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’s programs had to be downsized or put on hold due to a lack of financial support from the friends associations.



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, the village supported the building of a science room for the school of Beit Sira, a close-by community in the West Bank.

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. They now have a youth leadership program that builds the youth’s skills to facilitate groups and initiate social activities that will further the community’s work for peace.

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Years Ended August 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009

	Year Ended August 31,	
	2010	2009
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$691,736	\$929,027
Federal Grants	\$52,391	\$116,935
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	\$1,870	\$26,103
Other operating expenses	\$832	\$1,083
Total of revenues and other support	\$746,829	\$1,073,148
Operating expenses:		
Grants to NSWAS	\$469,665	\$600,935
Program services	\$167,046	\$191,584
Support	\$88,648	\$99,507
Fundraising	\$100,104	\$118,559
Total of operating expenses	\$825,463	\$1,010,585
Operating income (loss)	(\$78,634)	\$62,563
Other:		
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	\$34,104	(\$194,100)
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	(\$44,530)	(\$131,537)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Investment income (loss) from donor restricted investments	\$26,080	(\$53,876)
Change in net assets	(\$18,450)	(\$185,413)
Net assets at beginning of year	\$1,206,959	\$1,392,372
Net assets at end of year	\$1,188,509	\$1,206,959

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

Statements of Financial Position

August 31, 2010 and August 31, 2009

	Year Ended August 31,	
	2010	2009
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$168,341	\$488,569
Investments in marketable securities	\$943	\$994
Grants receivable - USAID	\$16,381	-
Prepaid expenses	-	\$4,627
Total current assets	\$185,665	\$494,190
ASSETS LIMITED AS TO USE		
Board designated	\$649,903	\$614,451
Donor designated	\$382,401	\$356,321
	\$1,032,304	\$970,772
FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and Equipment	\$5,639	\$5,639
Less accumulated depreciation	(\$5,516)	(\$5,142)
	\$123	\$497
OTHER ASSETS		
Security Deposit	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total assets	\$1,219,592	\$1,466,959
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Grants payable	\$31,083	\$223,193
Accounts payable	-	\$797
Deferred revenue	-	\$36,010
Total current liabilities	\$31,083	\$260,000
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$156,205	\$236,187
Board designated	\$649,903	\$614,451
Temporarily restricted	\$18,620	(\$7,460)
Permanently restricted	\$363,781	\$363,781
Total net assets	\$1,188,509	\$1,206,959
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,219,592	\$1,466,959

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: 818-325-8983

afnswas@oasisofpeace.org

www.oasisofpeace.org

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David Hitchcock

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Shibley Telhami

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