

# “On Goodwin Drive”

In appreciation for the philanthropic activity  
of Richard Goodwin  
at the Oasis of Peace



## The Dream

*“The dream of Neve Shalom is shared by a group of people deeply concerned about the situation. It sprang from the conviction that something must be done to change it, that there is a need to work, in collaboration with others who have the same aspiration, for peace and reconciliation in Israel. Later, God willing, this same effort may extend beyond the frontiers of our country.”*

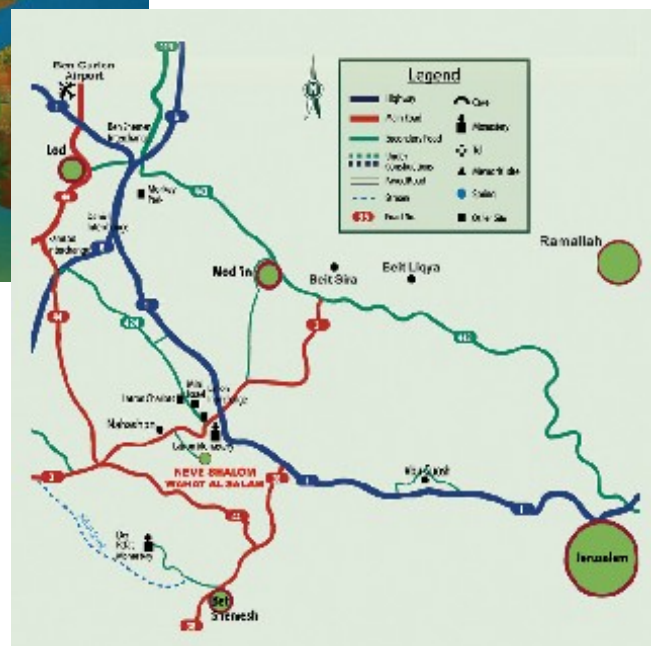
— Bruno Hussar, “When the Cloud Lifted”

Bruno knew from the start that the project of Neve Shalom – Wahat al-Salam would depend both on those who came to live on the barren hill, and on people all over the world who were willing to nurture it. Among the foremost of these has been Richard Goodwin.

Bruno began his career as an engineer, and later joked that he had always continued in his attempt to build bridges. Richard began his career as a builder, but later became also a builder of peace.

Bruno was a spiritual man with a practical vision. Richard is a practical man with a spiritual vision. Both of them have worked from the realization that the spirit of peace needs a physical home for it to dwell and prosper.

The Oasis of Peace grew from this realization: the fruit of Bruno's vision, the hard work of residents, and the philanthropic activity of Richard Goodwin and many others who “shared the dream” of Neve Shalom ~ Wahat al-Salam.



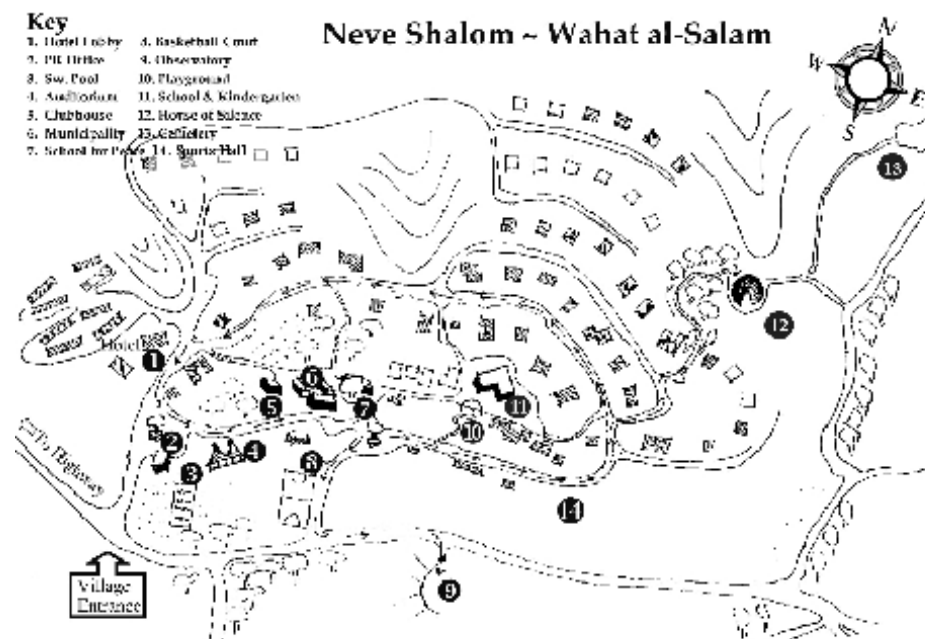


## Hill 314

The Oasis of Peace was built on a hilltop known to the Israeli army as “Hill 314”. The valley below was since biblical times a place of many battles. What site could be more suitable for a peace village?



Turning right from the village entrance, we find many buildings and projects that carry the name of Richard Goodwin. Some of these have only Richard's name – but sometimes there are other names too. Very often these are people that Richard himself has joined to the philanthropic effort of raising needed funds for the village.



## The Fraenkel – Sherman - Goodwin Swimming Pool

What would an Oasis be without a watering place – and what would a peace village in a dry and dusty land be without a place to cool down, socialize and have fun? The swimming pool serves both WAS-NS residents and people from the whole area. (The photo shows a Palestinian girl from West Bank village, brought to WAS-NS for physiotherapy.)



The pool was built with the help of the Fraenkels in Britain. It was Mrs Fraenkel's dream to build a swimming pool. When she came to England on the *kindertransport* in the 1940s, a boarding school had used the money saved for a swimming pool in order to adopt her. The Fraenkels, then the Sherman Family and others gave money for the swimming pool. But in order to complete it, we needed some additional help. Richard Goodwin came to the rescue!





## The Eisenberg Family Auditorium

The circular road that skirts most of the public buildings of the village is named Goodwin Drive, thanks to Richard's considerable help with the village infrastructure needs (which means more than buildings!)

But one of the largest buildings in the village is the Eisenberg Auditorium. It filled a need for a venue where large events could be held. It can seat four hundred people. The majority of the funding was provided by the Eisenberg Family, at the behest of Richard Goodwin. Naturally Richard contributed too!



## The Goodwin Athletic Field

The Basketball Court serves both the community and the School. Richard gave the money for the Court, but permitted an additional sign: "To our Tom Kita'in – a child of peace who was killed in war". Tom lost his life as a soldier in the helicopter accident of 1997.





## The Goodwin Wing of the School for Peace

The School for Peace (established 1979) is both a pioneering center of conflict group encounter and the oldest educational institution of the village. As such, it was built in stages. Its buildings host youth encounters, facilitator training courses, and many other activities. When the SFP outgrew its old premises, Richard Goodwin helped to construct a new wing to the building, which today houses both offices and library. This new wing freed up valuable space in the older building for encounter sessions. Later, when the old wood building which the School for Peace inherited began to fall apart, a new third building, "The Robert Nathan Wing" was added, thanks to the American Friends.





## A New Building for the Primary School

The Primary School was established in 1984, in a building made from salvaged prefabricated construction elements. Initially it functioned like a traditional school room, with a dozen children of different ages, all from the community. When the School began to accept children from surrounding villages, a larger building, funded by Jesse Zel Lurie, the German *Kindermisionwerk* and others, was added. However, as the school continued to grow, this building also became too small. A new building was desperately needed, and Richard Goodwin joined the effort.



**Anwar Dawod, Principal:** *Of 250 children in the school and kindergarten, 150 learn in the new building. Without it, the school would be less than half its size. This is thanks to Richard and his special and steadfast relationship with us. He wasn't just a contributor: I remember he sat with us even before we began to plan. He brought suggestions and ideas that helped us in the planning process. He accompanied the project from the concept stage until the children entered the new building.*





## School Buses

One of the creative and truly significant contributions to the Primary School in recent years has been the purchase of school buses by the village. According to a contract signed with our Regional Council, the buses are operated by the Council in exchange for funding that offsets the enormous cost of transporting children to the Primary School. The School buses were purchased as a cooperative effort of various international friends of NS-WAS. One of the significant contributors on the American side was our old friend, Richard Goodwin.



**Anwar Dawod, Principal:** *We have 250 children in the system. Almost 200 of these are transported by buses. This costs us a million and a half shekels a year – a sum that we cannot cover, neither from the Ministry of Education's funding, nor from tuition fees. It is only thanks to the donation of school buses, that we can cover it.*



## The Golder Goodwin Language Learning Center

There is no function more central to a bilingual school than that of teaching languages. Making sure that all the children become fluent in each other's language is one of the principal challenges of the school, so we have constantly sought innovative ways of teaching. One of the most interesting of these is a project developed by a Hebrew University language specialist. She came up with the concept of "a language center" that maximizes the children's ability to learn the other language through games, role-playing, audiovisual materials and more. A special donation from Richard Goodwin and the Golder family enabled us to create the Golder – Goodwin Language Learning Center.



School language teacher Faten instructing the children.





## The Goodwin Sports Hall

In Israel the national lottery (*Mifal HaPais*) supports the construction of sports halls for communities throughout the country. So, on the recommendation of our Regional Council, they supported one in WAS-NS and undertook the construction. However, even with the Lottery's contribution there was additional important work – and money - needed in order to complete the project. Richard Goodwin, as usual, came to the rescue.



*My name is Liora Erez. I teach at "Neve Shalom" school for about 15 years.*

*As deputy principal and as Physical Education teacher, I am responsible for the proper operation of our new gym.*

*The purpose of my letter is to thank you for your great and unique contribution for "Neve Shalom" school in general, and for participating in establishing the gym. Construction of the gym added to the school's functioning and ability to perform its multi-cultural integration of all characteristics of bringing together Jews and Arabs.*

*It also brought to a higher-level the most significant school activities and functions; both during the school day and afterwards. It enables me to bring to our physical education classes better movement and more. Regardless of local weather, the spacious and well-equipped gym is able to serve well both teachers and students. In addition, the gym is a major center for social and cultural activities for everyone in the school community. Activities take place, both during the joint study leisure activities for students and children from Neve Shalom after school. We make extensive use of the hall to celebrate holidays together, conduct performances and ceremonies and after-school activities for young children and adults. The construction of the gym brought a real change in the educational and cultural functions of the school. Our gym is a source of great pride for us and we thank you sincerely,*

*Liora Erez*

## Pluralistic Spiritual Center in Memory of Bruno Hussar

At once the newest institution but also among the earliest concepts of the Oasis of Peace, the spiritual center is based on the ideas and lifework of Bruno Hussar. Richard Goodwin has been a consistent supporter.



**Abdessalam Najjar: director:**

*Thank you for opening a door to the Pluralistic Spiritual Center. As you know, the PSC is the institution that works for peace under the spiritual umbrella. Cross-cultural encounters often tend to emphasize mind-to-mind meetings, though young people, in particular, might prefer to have meetings that are heart-to-heart. At the PSC we try to combine both of these approaches, as the most effective way of making connections between diverse people.*

*As we are acquainted for a long time, I know that this kind of approach is close to your heart. I still remember your museum, where you invited me to talk, and later you sent me the most marvelous picture from there. I'll be very happy to open a dialog with you on various projects and activities that perfectly match your own aims and ideas.*





## Beyond Buildings and Projects

As if it were not already enough, Richard Goodwin's support has gone far beyond providing funding for most of the major buildings in the Oasis of Peace.

Richard is a senior board member of the American Friends of Neve Shalom ~ Wahat al-Salam; a provider of ongoing support running into millions of dollars; and a peer-to-peer fundraiser who has managed to influence friends and associates to give generously too. Everyone acquainted with him knows that his philanthropy stems from a genuine concern for the challenges facing Israel and the belief that the solution to the Middle East conflict lies in peace making rather than in the force of arms. Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom, as an intentional community of Arab and Jewish citizens, is immensely proud to have Richard Goodwin as a steadfast partner in the struggle for peace and justice.



**We will leave the last words to the children of the Oasis of Peace Primary School:**

