History of the Peace Museum project

(as of September 2015)

In 2000, a group visited us from the "Friedensraueme" Peace Museum in Lindau, and, at a special ceremony established a rose bower as a sign of friendship and the beginning of a relationship. With the help of Rubin Moskowitz, an old friend and early member of the village, we were able to collect a sum of money to begin what we initially called our "peace ways and paths" project.

While the fundraising effort continued, the conception for the project was worked on by various teams and gradually took shape. In 2011 Abdessalam Najjar (*allah irrahmo*) worked with a team to establish the project under the direction of the Spiritual Center and in collaboration with the Primary School, while working with some of the teachers.

Abdessalam died in 2012, but we continued with a new team composed solely of women: Dafna Karta Schwartz,, Diana Shaloufi Rizek, Dorit Shippin, Michal Mozes and Yasmin al-Kalek. One of the challenges was to find a suitable home for the project. Since we did not have a single large building as did the Peace Museum in Lindau, we decided to split the project into two: an activity project, to be known as the "Bustan" (orchard) and the Peace Museum.

- 1. The "Bustan" (orchard) will integrate various kinds of activities for individual and group visitors. At the time of writing, the project is still taking shape, but a brochure can be found <u>here</u>.
- 2. Peace Museum The Museum, took advantage of the previously unfinished ground floor of the Peace Library, its front patio and the surrounding green areas.

By late 2014, on the basis of the donations received, we were able to create the physical space for the museum and began to create events and host temporary exhibitions there.