



Neve Shalom ~ Wahat al-Salam
واحة السلام (Oasis of Peace) נווה שלום

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The Community

Neve Shalom~Wahat al-Salam (NSWAS) is a village in Israel of Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship. Situated equidistant from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-Jaffa, NSWAS was founded in the early 1970s on land originally leased from the adjacent Latrun Monastery. By 2005, some 50 families had come to live in the village, with an equal number of Jews and Arabs. Eventually the village will include about 140 homes.

The members of NSWAS are demonstrating the possibility of coexistence between Jews and Palestinians by developing a community based on mutual acceptance, respect and cooperation. Democratically governed and owned by its members, the community is not affiliated with any political party or movement. NSWAS gives practical expression to its vision through various branches:

Bilingual, Binational Schooling

The idea of creating an educational framework that would express Neve Shalom~Wahat al-Salam's ideals of coexistence and equality was born together with the community's first children. The idea took shape in the form of a binational nursery, quickly followed by a kindergarten and a primary school. After several years of operation, these were opened also to children from outside the village. Today the school system extends from nursery to junior high school levels and enrolls about 300 children, 90% of which come from surrounding Arab and Jewish communities.

Neve Shalom~Wahat al-Salam's educational system was the first and remains the most extensive Jewish-Palestinian bilingual children's educational program in the country. Its unique educational approach begins in the nursery and kindergarten. The Jewish and Palestinian teachers each speak exclusively in their own languages to all of the children. From an early age, the children begin to develop an awareness of their identity, culture and traditions. There is an atmosphere of openness and tolerance that encourages the children to understand, accept and appreciate each other.

The educational system is governed by the following principles:

- Equal participation by Jews and Palestinians in the administration and teaching.
- Providing a natural ongoing framework that enables the day-to-day meeting between children of the two peoples.
- Use of both Hebrew and Arabic in teaching all of the children.
- Nurturing each child's identity by imparting a knowledge of his/her culture and tradition while inculcating respectful familiarity with the culture and tradition of the other people.

In the year 2000 Israel's board of education incorporated the primary school into the national school system. This furthers our goal of gaining legitimacy for this form of education and establishing the school as a model for emulation, particularly in cities or regions where there is a binational population. We believe that providing children with an educational environment which promotes understanding between the two peoples is an essential step on the road to a stable peace.

Tel: 02 991 9386
Email: primary.school@nswas.org.

Fax: 02 9991524
Web: <http://nswas.org/school/>

The School for Peace

The School for Peace (SFP) was established in 1979 for the purpose of conducting outreach educational work. The SFP assimilates the principles upon which the Community was founded by engaging in encounter work between Arabs and Jews. This work is informed by the vision of a humane, egalitarian and just society. The goal of the encounters is to develop the awareness of the participants towards the conflict and their role in it, as well as to enable them to explore and evolve their identity through interaction with the other.

The School for Peace conducts the following programs:

1. Encounter workshops on the conflict for Jewish and Palestinian youth in Israel.
2. Encounter workshops, in-service training and seminars for adult groups, including teachers, journalists, lawyers, social workers and university students.
3. Encounter work between citizens of Israel and Palestine together with Palestinian NGOs.
4. Facilitator training courses.
5. Yearly graduates' courses in cooperation with four Israeli universities.
6. Courses for empowerment of Arab and Jewish women.
7. Training courses (in its working methods) for persons from abroad.
8. Encounters for raising awareness towards intergroup conflicts within Arab and Jewish society.

The above programs are directed and facilitated by a joint Jewish-Palestinian staff. The facilitators have an academic background in social and behavioral sciences and are specially trained to work with conflict groups. During many years of experience, including intensive action-research, the School has developed an educational approach that places an emphasis on elements such as power relations and the exploration of ethnic and national identities.

Some 35,000 young people have attended SFP encounters. More than three hundred adults have received training in conflict management skills, many of whom are now active in other organizations for social change. The SFP has established a research center for documentation and research on work conducted by the SFP and other organizations dealing with Jewish - Arab encounter, as well as the study of Jewish-Arab relations in general. In the future the SFP plans to establish a program for graduate studies in conflict and peace studies that will be conducted on-site. The school has won local and international recognition for its achievements, including prestigious awards and prizes. Publications describing its special working methods are now available in Arabic, Hebrew and English.

Tel: 02 991 6282
Email: sfp@nswas.org.

Fax: 02 999 2697
Web: <http://www.sfpeace.org>.

Humanitarian Aid

NSWAS operates a program to provide medical relief for Palestinian villagers affected by the ongoing conflict. The project is conducted by NSWAS residents on a voluntary basis and is supported by donations of money and materials from Israel and abroad.

Tel: 02 991 5621
Email: info@nswas.org

Fax: 02 991 1072
Web: <http://nswas.org/rubrique38.html>

Doumia~Sakinah

Pluralistic Spiritual Centre in memory of Bruno Hussar

A place and a framework for spiritual reflection on issues at the core of the Middle East conflict and the search for its resolution. The Centre attempts to tap into the spiritual resources available within our cultures and religious traditions, in order to enhance the effectiveness of NSWAS as a community conducting educational work for peace. It initiates meetings, study days and courses on various topics relating to our spiritual, cultural and national identities.

Set apart on a pleasant corner of the hilltop, the House of Silence (Bet Doumia /Bet as-Sakinah) is a place for reflection, meditation or prayer.) It provides a common place of sanctuary to all, despite divisions of creed and culture. A second building is being built, which will include a space for meetings, prayer, study, or silent retreat.

Tel: 02 991 2222 #103

Fax: 02 991 2222

Email: doumia-sakinah@nswas.org.

Web: <http://nswas.org/bhc>

Hospitality

Close to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, yet blessed with a superbly scenic location, our reasonably priced hotel offers an attractive base for touring Israel, visiting the village and/or participating in programs. Hotel rooms are well designed, air-conditioned, and spacious, each with a separate entrance and private balcony. Facilities and catering for conferences, seminars or other events are available. An outdoor swimming pool is open in season. The hotel welcomes individual travelers and groups for accommodation or meals en route – but please book well in advance.

Reservations and inquiries regarding accommodation via:

Tel: 02 991 7160,

Fax: 02 991 7412,

email: hotel@nswas.org

Web: www.hotel.nswas.org

Visit Programs

For groups on a day visit or staying overnight, an introductory presentation on Neve Shalom~Wahat al-Salam, including a video film and discussion with a community member, can be arranged. Visitors may also choose from a variety of cultural, artistic or spiritual activities and programs. Groups desiring such programs should apply to our visit programs director well in advance. (If the visit will involve both accommodation or meals at the hotel **and** a visit program, please apply first to the visit programs director.)

Tel: 02 991 5621 #101,

Fax: 02 991 1072,

email: rita@nswas.org

Web: www.nswas.org/rubrique143.html

Volunteer Program

Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam has a framework that makes it possible to live and work in the village for a few months in exchange for living expenses. The program is intended mainly for young people, and the average stay is from six months to one year. For details about conditions and how to apply, please see the website.

Tel: 02 991 5621 #101,

Fax: 02 991 1072,

email: rita@nswas.org

Web: www.nswas.org/rubrique7.html

Support for Neve Shalom~Wahat al-Salam

The activities and ongoing development of NSWAS depend on the moral and financial support of all those who believe in our goals. A network of **Friends' Associations** in various countries circulates up-dated reports on our activities and provides a channel for fundraising.

If you wish to help, please refer to the following list. Representatives of the Friends' Associations will also be happy to provide you with information regarding tax-deduction possibilities for donations.

<i>Austria</i>	Dr. John Bunzl, Biberstr. 8, 1010 Wien Tel. 01 513 6783, Fax: 02 236 72514, email: jbunzl@oiip.at & Adel el-Sayed, Hottinger Au.76/33, 6020 Innsbruck, /Fax 43 512 93 86 43 Email: Adel.El-Sayed@uibk.ac.at
<i>Belgium</i>	Les Amis Belges de NSH/WS, 58 Rue de la Prevoyance, B-1000 Bruxelles Tel. 02 513 3216 Fax. 02 502 0150 email: pierre.delocht@skynet.be
<i>Britain</i>	British Friends of NSWAS, POB 416, Edgeware, Middlesex HA8 5XU Tel. 020 952 4717, Fax: 020 952 4717. email: british.friends@nswas.com
<i>Denmark</i>	Marit F. Jørgensen, Halfdansgade 29 2tv, 2300 København S. Tel. 45 32969687 email: Maritfloe@netscape.net
<i>France</i>	Les Amis de NSH/WS, 251 Ave. du Marechal Juin, F - 92100 Boulogne Tel. Fax: 01 41 41 05 72, email: ds@nswas.org
<i>Germany</i>	Mr. Hermann Sieben, Sonnenrain 30, 53757 Sankt Augustin 1 Tel./Fax: 02241-331153 email: friedensoase@gmx.de
<i>Italy</i>	Mr. Bruno Segre, via Giulio Uberti 12, 20129 Milano Tel. (02) 70 10 50 16 Fax: (02) 70 12 59 99 email: it@nswas.org
<i>Netherlands</i>	Maaïke Lok-Funcke, Kruisweg 1103, 2131 CV Hoofddorp Tel. 023-5615104, e-mail: lok-funcke@hetnet.nl
<i>Sweden</i>	Catharina Hjortzberg-Nordlund (Secretary, Ritarvaegen 1, S-79144 Falun. Tel. 46 2333540. Catharina.Hjortzberg-Nordlund@ltdalarna.se
<i>Switzerland</i>	Weissensteinstrasse 51, CH - 4500 Solothurn Tel. Fax: 41 (0)78 852 10 89 email: ch@nswas.org
<i>USA</i>	American Friends of NSWAS, afnswas@oasisofpeace.org NJ: 4201 Church Rd. Suite 4, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, 1 856-235-6200 CA: 12925 Riverside Drive, 3rd Fl, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423, 1 818 325 8884

Last update: December 2005