



Oasis of **واحة السلام** Wahat al-Salam  
Peace **נווה שלום** Neve Shalom

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## The Community

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Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom (WAS-NS) is a village in Israel of Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship. Situated equidistant from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-Jaffa, WAS-NS was founded in the early 1970s on land originally leased from the adjacent Latrun Monastery. By 2010, some 60 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 WAS-NS 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. WAS-NS gives practical expression to its vision through various branches:

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## Bilingual, Binational Schooling

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The idea of creating an educational framework that would express Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom'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 more than 250 children, 90% of which come from surrounding Arab and Jewish communities.

Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom's educational system was the first 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 knowledge of his/her culture and tradition while inculcating respectful familiarity with the culture and tradition of the other people.

One of the goals of the WAS-NS educational system has been to establish this form of education as a viable 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. In recent years we have been encouraged to see the development of further bilingual schools in Israel inspired by our early efforts.

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Email: [primary.school@nswas.org](mailto:primary.school@nswas.org).

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

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## The School for Peace

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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 45,000 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

Fax: 02 999 2697

Email: [sfp@nswas.info](mailto:sfp@nswas.info)

Web: <http://www.sfpeace.org>

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## Doumia~Sakinah

### The Pluralistic Spiritual Centre in memory of Bruno Hussar

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A framework for encounter activities, study and reflection, based on the values of equality, justice and reconciliation. The Centre's activities draw inspiration from the resources and spiritual traditions of the Middle East and the world at large. Programs focus on open inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue and the advancement of peace.

The Pluralistic Spiritual Centre is set apart on a pleasant corner of the hilltop and comprises the **House of Silence** (*Bet Doumia /Bet as-Sakinah*), for reflection and meditation (opened in the 1980s); and the **Meeting, Prayer and Study House** (opened 2006). Besides conducting its own events program, the Centre invites other groups to hire its facilities for activities of a compatible nature.

The Pluralistic Spiritual Centre was established at the initiative of WAS-NS founders Bruno Hussar and Anne Le Meignen.

Tel: 02 999-6306.

Email: [doumia-sakinah@nswas.org](mailto:doumia-sakinah@nswas.org)

Web: <http://doumia-sakinah.nswas.org>

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## Youth Club – Nadi al-Shabibah~Moadon Noar

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A Youth Club provides a framework, throughout the school year and during vacations, for a variety of stimulating, fun and challenging extracurricular activities for the young people of the community. The Club is organized voluntarily by community members, run by a part-time salaried youth leader, and assisted by a growing number of parents and senior youngsters.

The objectives of the Youth Club are to foster and sustain interpersonal connections; to encourage voluntary community involvement; to increase awareness on issues of Palestinian-Jewish relations and social justice; to promote values of mutual acceptance and respect; and to generate individual and social responsibility towards peers, the immediate community, other Palestinian and Jewish communities, and the larger society.

The village's young people, on finishing the bi-lingual primary school, travel outside as they pursue their education and personal interests. The Youth Club provides the structure for them to stay together and continue to take part in the life of the community.

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## Humanitarian Aid

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WAS-NS operates a program to provide humanitarian relief (usually but not exclusively medical) for Palestinian villagers affected by the ongoing conflict. The project is conducted by WAS-NS residents on a voluntary basis and is supported by donations of money and materials from Israel and abroad.

Tel: 02 991 5621

Fax: 02 991 1072

Email: [info@nswas.info](mailto:info@nswas.info)

Web: <http://nswas.org/rubrique38.html>

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## Volunteer Program

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Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom 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: [volunteering@nswas.org](mailto:volunteering@nswas.org)

Web: [www.nswas.org/rubrique7.html](http://www.nswas.org/rubrique7.html)

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## Hospitality

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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](mailto:hotel@nswas.org)

Web: [www.hotel.nswas.org](http://www.hotel.nswas.org)

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## Visit Programs

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For groups on a day visit or staying overnight, an introductory presentation on Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom, 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 / meals at the hotel **and** a visit program, please apply first to the visit programs director.)

Tel: 02 991 2222 #101,

Fax: 02 991 1072,

email: [rita@nswas.info](mailto:rita@nswas.info)

Web: [www.nswas.org/rubrique143.html](http://www.nswas.org/rubrique143.html)

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## Support for Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom

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The activities and ongoing development of WAS-NS depend on the moral and financial support of all those who believe in our goals. A network of **Friends' Associations** in various countries performs public relations work and 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.

- Austria** Dr. John Bunzl, Biberstr. 8, 1010 Wien  
☎ 01 513 6783, Fax: 02 236 72514, email: [jbunzl@oiip.at](mailto: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](mailto:Adel.El-Sayed@uibk.ac.at)
- Belgium** Les Amis Belges de NSh/WS, c/o Suzanne Daws,  
rue des Pêcheries, 36, 1160 Bruxelles  
☎ 02 02/673.50.27 [sdaws@brutele.be](mailto:sdaws@brutele.be)
- Britain** British Friends of Neve Shalom ~ Wahat al-Salam,  
POB 416, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7EA  
☎ 020 952 4717, Fax: 020 952 4717. [british.friends@nswas.org](mailto:british.friends@nswas.org)  
Web: <http://oasisofpeaceuk.org>
- Canada** The Canadian Friends of Neve Shalom ~ Wahat al-Salam  
[cdnfriends@nswas.info](mailto:cdnfriends@nswas.info)
- Denmark** Marit F. Jørgensen, Halldansgade 29 2tv, 2300 København S.  
☎ 45 32969687 [mfj@euromedrights.net](mailto:mfj@euromedrights.net)
- France** Les Amis de NSh/WS, 251 Ave. du Marechal Juin, F - 92100 Boulogne  
☎/Fax : 01 42 71 46 32 [amis.francais@nswas.info](mailto:amis.francais@nswas.info)
- Germany** Mr. Hermann Sieben, Sonnenrain 30, 53757 Sankt Augustin 1  
☎: 02241-331153 [friedensoase@gmx.de](mailto:friedensoase@gmx.de)
- Italy** Via Buschi 19, 20131 Milano  
☎ e Fax. 02/2664699 [it@nswas.info](mailto:it@nswas.info)
- Netherlands** Maaïke Lok-Funcke, Kruisweg 1103, 2131 CV Hoofddorp  
☎. 023-5615104, [lok-funcke@hetnet.nl](mailto:lok-funcke@hetnet.nl)
- Sweden** Catharina Hjortzberg-Nordlund (Secretary),  
Ritarvaegen 1, S-79144 Falun.  
☎ 02333540. [catharina.hjortzberg@telia.com](mailto:catharina.hjortzberg@telia.com)
- Switzerland** Geschäftsstelle c/o Ada Winter  
Geissenstr. 6, 8712 Stäfa  
☎: 032 665 02 77 [ch@nswas.org](mailto:ch@nswas.org)
- USA** American Friends of Neve Shalom / Wahat al-Salam,  
12925 Riverside Drive, 3rd Fl, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423  
☎ 818 325 8884 [afnswas@oasisofpeace.org](mailto:afnswas@oasisofpeace.org)  
Web: <http://oasisofpeace.org>

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## News and Updates

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- Our website: <http://nswas.org>  
News feed: [http://nswas.org/spip.php?page=backend&id\\_rubrique=22](http://nswas.org/spip.php?page=backend&id_rubrique=22)  
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/oasisofpeace>  
Twitter: [http://twitter.com/oasis\\_of\\_peace](http://twitter.com/oasis_of_peace)  
Photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/info.nswas>