



WINTER 2007

New Shaliach at GHEF



This fall Givat Haviva Educational Foundation welcomed new *shaliach* (Israeli emissary) Guy Tsfoni. In addition to his role as liaison between GHEF and Givat Haviva in Israel, Guy will work to strengthen current relationships and to create new partnerships that will disseminate Givat Haviva's unique message and develop the resources necessary for its continued growth.

Guy brings with him from Israel 20-plus years experience in social activism and education. He has special expertise in group facilitation, educational programming and leadership development; he has spent the past few years developing community models for meaningful dialogue between Israel and the Diaspora.

Guy co-founded HaMidrasha, Educational Institute for the Renewal of Jewish Life, and was founding director of Shdemot, Center for Community Leadership at Oranim (Academic College for Education). [cont'd p. 4]

Radio All for Peace: Exclusive Interview

"I myself am prepared... if necessary, to travel to Gaza and to remain there with the Hamas security forces until all the demands have been met...."

These were the words of Noam Shalit, father of kidnapped soldier Gilad, to Popular Resistance Committee Spokesman Abu Mujahad. They were heard in the framework of an exclusive radio interview arranged in early January on Radio All for Peace, with the goal of moving forward negotiations for the release of Gilad. The full conversation can be heard on the station's Hebrew and Arabic website; a transcript is also available in English (www.allforpeace.org).



Maysa Baransi-Siniora & Shimon Malka, Co-Directors of Radio All for Peace

Comments Israeli Co-Director Shimon Malka, "Radio All for Peace started as a vision of Israelis and Palestinians to create a joint independent media tool to enhance and facilitate a real dialogue between them. This second radio meeting between the kidnapers of soldier Gilad Shalit and his father, Noam Shalit, is an example of how we are trying to achieve this mission in a very concrete and immediate way."

Radio All for Peace, sponsored jointly by Biladi (the Palestinian publisher of the weekly *Jerusalem Times*) and Givat Haviva, has been broadcasting in Arabic, Hebrew and English for three years. Under the supervision of two project coordinators, Maysa Baransi-Siniora and Shimon Malka, 20 Jewish and Arab staff members work side by side to broadcast a message of cooperation and joint mission.



Radio All for Peace and GHEF representatives with other participants at the Alternative Channels Workshop in Puerto Rico (see p. 5)

[Cont'd p. 5]



The Ups and Downs of 2006



A message from GHEF Executive Director, Hiam Simon

Bill Vaughan once said, “An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”

This year I’m a bit of both. I’m not sad as I watch the year 2006 come to a close. 2006 brought us a fruitless war in Lebanon that rained down death and destruction on the North, and exacerbated the rift between elements of Israeli society, a rift Givat Haviva has been working to heal for many years.

Yet 2006 brought also seeds for hope. In the aftermath of the war, the needs of the North were answered, for the first time, without regard to ethnicity. Millions of dollars raised by the American Jewish community were distributed to Jewish and Arab communities alike. In explaining to those who felt that money raised by Jews should only be spent on Jews, Zev Bielsky, Chairman of the Jewish Agency under whose auspices the aid was distributed responded that he was the “chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel and not the chairman of the Israeli Agency for Jews.”

Other highlights hold promise for a more just society. Yuli Tamir, Israeli Minister of Education, announced that from now on all the maps in Israeli text books of Israel will delineate the “Green Line.” Suddenly the Israeli occupation is no longer invisible, and people will need to determine “which side of the line” they are on. While putting a line on the map does not solve the problem, it does send a strong positive signal to Israel’s Arab citizens that a new wind may be blowing.

This year, for the first time, Givat Haviva was a sponsor at the United Jewish Communities General Assembly, a gathering of 5,000 Jewish professionals and Federation leaders, and a touchstone for discussion, thought and new directions for the American Jewish community. I am happy to report that we have already received contributions as a

result of the thousand brochures we handed out from our booth in the Exhibition Hall.

Beside our very visible presence, Israeli Arab issues and Givat Haviva were an integral part of the General Assembly in such heavily attended sessions as:

- * The Writing on the Wall: The Impact of the Hezbollah War on Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel
- * The Federation System and Israeli Arabs
- * Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues
- * Education as a Tool for Coexistence

And finally it should be noted with both pride and pleasure that before closing, the UJC passed a resolution on Israeli Arabs that closely mirrors the resolution passed by the World Zionist Congress in June, supporting the efforts of the Israeli Government and urging the Jewish Federations of North America to join in all efforts to “foster the development of the country for the benefit of all of its inhabitants, to use missions to Israel to engage with Israeli Arabs, and to continue to sensitize the Jewish



Hiam Simon, GHEF Exec. Director, with Yuli Tamir, Israeli Minister of Education, at GA in Los Angeles

community regarding this important issue...”

And so it is that we look forward to 2007, knowing we are doing good work and succeeding. The road has never been an easy one, but the path we walk is perhaps the most important one facing the citizens of Israel.

On the adjoining page, we list nine creative new projects designed by the staff at Givat Haviva in Israel. You can help get these impressive projects off the ground by sending in your donation using the attached envelope. Together, in 2007, we can turn wishes and hopes into action.



Nine New Projects Seek Funding

■ Jewish-Arab Volunteer Year of Community Service

This project will establish a group of Jewish and Arab 18-year-old Israelis, who will live together for one year, conduct community activity in local towns, and study democracy, equality and education. The program aims at creating an echelon of young leadership committed to Jewish-Arab partnership and community activity.

■ Peace Insight

Peace Insight is a long-term program designed to facilitate encounters between Israeli and Palestinian youth (aged 16-18), that will promote dialogue and ongoing relationships, as well as influence the communities and schools from which the participants come. The project is a joint venture between Peace Insight based in Sussex, England, Givat Haviva's Jewish-Arab Center for Peace and The Way from Ramallah.

■ A Song of Praise to Hope

This educational program for Jewish and Arab pre-schoolers uses games, stories and songs to teach such values as acceptance of the other, friendship and equality. The program is based on a book+audiotape called *No One Can Steal Your Rainbow* by Barbara Meislin (printed in Hebrew and Arabic).

■ Mauna Survey

This public/educational project (a joint venture of the Northern Region Antiquities Department and Givat Haviva) is designed to bring together Jewish and Arab students and adults through joint archeological activity in the Galilee (Mauna). A new archeological survey will be conducted in the Mauna region by the students and their parents, all local residents of the area.

■ Film Section at the Peace Library

A venture is being planned to establish a film section at the Peace Library. The project aims to collect and organize the dozens of films that have been produced in recent years on the subject of the Jewish-Arab conflict and majority-minority relations, and to make them more accessible (particularly for teachers). A viewing area will be built, films will be digitized and sample lesson plans for each film will be prepared.

■ Women Empowering Women: A Facilitators Course

This two-year course will provide professional training, enrichment, and practical experience to 20 Israeli women. The course advances the social, political and cultural involvement of women by training them to facilitate change in their respective societies.

■ From Unemployment to a Cooperative Partnership: A Training Course in Women's Empowerment

This course is aimed at helping low-income or unemployed women – most of them new immigrants in the Kfar Yona area – break out of the cycle of poverty. The program (58 four-hour sessions) focuses on: personal and economic empowerment, learning a trade (baking), business entrepreneurship, and construction of a cooperative.

■ Working with Mother-Daughter Groups

This project aims to rehabilitate the relations and mutual support system between mothers and daughters. The program, conducted for three separate groups (Ethiopian, Kafkhazi and Arab) focuses on empowerment, consciousness raising, non-verbal communication, and anger release, and includes creative art activities and a two-day overnight session. The program will be held in cooperation with the Welfare Department of the local municipality and the Department of Social Work at Tel Aviv University.

■ Jewish-Arab Junior Youth Orchestra

This project will bring together 10 Jewish and 10 Arab musicians between the ages of 10-15 with the goal of creating a bi-national youth orchestra. The project is comprised of 30 mixed encounters of musical training and personal/group processes. A final performance will take place at the Givat Haviva campus.

WHAT'S NEW AT GIVAT HAVIVA?



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info@givathaviva.org



New Shaliach at GHEF (cont'd from p.1)

Guy welcomes this new chapter in his career, he tells us, as it allows him to pursue his commitment to *tikkun olam* ("repairing the world" through activism) in an area close to his heart – the Jewish-Arab conflict. Tying in as well with his commitment to building community models for Israel-Diaspora relations, his position offers him a deeper understanding of American Jewish attitudes towards Israel and its affairs.

In the pursuit of *tikkun olam* and social justice, Guy hopes to take on the enormous challenge of opening American Jews to a more critical discourse on the subject of Israel's minority population. He will work to bring Jewish-Arab issues into the educational programs set up by Jewish Federations on the subject of Israel.

Guy is enjoying New York City with him wife, Chen, a fourth-year rabbinical student at HUC in Israel who is completing her degree in NYC while doing her internship at Bnei Jeshurun Synagogue. Children Shai (12), Michal (10), and Nir (5) are adjusting nicely at Heschel School in Manhattan.

We welcome Guy to Givat Haviva and wish him much success.

An article by GHEF board member Dan Flesher was published recently in the *Jerusalem Report* (Vol. XVII No. 20; accessible at www.jrep.com). Flesher writes about the impact of Israel's relations with countries outside its borders.

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Coaching for Tolerance - Exclusively!

December 20 was a day for celebration at Givat Haviva's Jewish-Arab Center for Peace. A cooperation agreement was signed with the Israeli Coaching Association (ICA) giving Givat Haviva exclusivity for its sports coaching courses for Israel's Arabs, courses that include Jewish participants in keeping with the mission of the Center.

At a meeting attended by Gazal Abu Raya, Director of the Northern Branch of the Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, and Ami Bartal and Reuven Katz of the Israeli Coaching Association, both parties agreed to maintain the high professional standards of their organizations. Katz noted that "Givat Haviva has a reputation second to none," adding that the prestigious ICA is also active at Haifa's Technion University and at Tel Aviv University.

Gazal Abu Raya, Director of the Northern Branch, expressed his pleasure at the initiative and spoke of its great potential contribution to the goals of both the ICA and Givat Haviva. Two new *Coaching for Tolerance* courses will open at the Northern Branch in Sakhnin, on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Values education and social empowerment: How it all began

While sports activities too often become venues for violent and racist expression, sports can also bridge between young people, helping them discover their similarities as they cooperate to achieve mutual goals. With this understanding, coupled with the awareness that sports coaches have great influence over their team players, the Center launched an innovative course in the spring of 2006 entitled *Training of Sports Coaches as a Tool for Empowerment of Youth (Coaches for Tolerance in Sports)*.

Offered at Givat Haviva's Sakhnin branch in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the course provides coaches with tools for values education and social empowerment via sports, and includes workshops moderated by professional Jewish and Arab facilitators as well as lectures by experts in their respective fields.



(left to right) Hermann Bünz, Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Israel; Marwan Said Ahmad, course participant (Sports Educator, Sakhnin); Ahmad Bdair, Co-Director, Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, Givat Haviva; Hameed Ganaim, course participant (Director, Sports Department, Sakhnin Municipality) receiving his certificate from Zuhir Yihyeh, Head of Kfar Kara Local Council; Haggai Halevi, Executive Director, Givat Haviva; Arnon Rosmarin, Co-Director, Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, Givat Haviva



Radio all for Peace (cont'd from p. 1)

Radio All for Peace reports on daily events in a balanced way; by presenting each side's story and version, it brings forward the many groups who are trying to make a difference by influencing the respective public opinion and decision makers. Radio AFP provides huge exposure to peer-to-peer activity in Palestine and Israel, interviewing activists and peace movement participants about their activities and efforts – always from the point of view of both communities.

Daily news editions emphasize the sources of the information and present a variety of different sources. News items are translated into Arabic and Hebrew; they are made available on the web and sent to several international radio stations and news agencies.

Two hour-long morning shows (Arabic and Hebrew) begin with a critical and comparative readings, followed by analysis of editorials and top stories in the daily newspapers – Palestinian, Israeli and international, referring to the editorials and top stories of each side. Political and social interviews and analyses are interspersed with music – local and international.

Radio All for Peace at Alliance for the New Humanity

Representatives from Radio AFP, participated in a workshop entitled *Alternative Channels*, held during the Alliance for the New Humanity's conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, this last December. The conference featured "change agents" from around the world, working for a better future for all.

Presenters at the workshop included Shimon Malka, co-director of Radio AFP, as well as Sharon Misheiker and Aziz Sarah, the Israeli and Palestinian co-writers, editors and presenters of Radio AFP's flag ship program "A New Direction." Sharon and Aziz are members of the Parent

Peace in Art

During a recent visit to London, Lydia Aisenberg from Givat Haviva's International Department came across an art exhibit by a Muslim Egyptian artist. The artist had been wandering the world for many years, sharing his artistic call for harmony. After an hour-long chat, El Nil Suliman made a gift to Givat Haviva; his colorful message of peace with its Arabic and English texts and symbols of peace now adorns the walls of Givat Haviva's Jewish-Arab Center for Peace.

Circle-Families Forum (PCFF), an organization of bereaved families supporting peace, reconciliation and tolerance.

Participants Miko Peled and Nader Elbanna, an Israeli and a Palestinian, are San Diego residents who became friends through their work in peace dialogue groups; they are now running a program that supplies 1000 wheel chairs for Israeli and Palestinian children injured during violent events.



Dr. Michael Ben-Eli, GHEF chairman, with Sarah Ozacky Lazar, former director of the Jewish Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva, and Betty Williams, Irish Nobel Laureate for Peace, during the workshop in Puerto Rico.

Shimon, Sharon, Aziz, Nader, and Miko shared with participants their daily struggles and their work through their civil society organizations to overcome the violent realities of the Middle East and create alternative channels of communications and dialogue.

The workshop was facilitated by Sarah Ozacky Lazar, peace activist and former director of the Jewish Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva, and Michael Ben-Eli, GHEF Chairman, New York.





Visitors to Givat Haviva

■ On November 13, Givat Haviva welcomed a visit from U.S. Ambassador Richard H. Jones. Mr. Jones' visit focused on Arab-Jewish related projects at the Center, dealing with coexistence and Arab empowerment. These projects are partly funded by the United States Federal Government.



U.S. Ambassador Richard Jones with a group of participants in the U.S. Government-supported project for community and municipal workers.

■ The third annual Ameinu Mission to Israel visited Givat Haviva in late December, eager to witness first-hand the issues, problems, and challenges Israel faces today. The visit to Givat Haviva's Jewish Arab Center for Peace was uplifting, and the tour of the Wadi Ara region provided the context for many discussions about peace and coexistence throughout the mission.

■ Nine folks from Meretz USA visited Givat Haviva in early December. They met with members of the various department staff, toured the Wadi Ara region and met with Mayor Riad Kabha at his home. Former Director of the Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, Kabha is currently Mayor of the Basma Local Council.

■ A delegation of American priests and rabbis also enjoyed a visit, including seminars about kibbutz life and Arab-Jewish relations, and a visit to the Radio All for Peace station in Jerusalem.

■ A group of New York State Assembly members, visiting Israel under the auspices of the United Jewish Committee, set out from the Megiddo Junction with a guide from Givat Haviva, to tour the Wadi 'Ara region and meet with Mayor of the Basma Local Council Riad Kabha. The Mayor shared the history of the village of Barta'a and spoke of the important work being done by Givat Haviva in promoting Jewish-Arab relations.

■ Two German groups visited Givat Haviva in the fall: a group from the Federal Agency for Civic Education in Germany and an official delegation from the Rheinland-Pfalz state in Germany, a friend of Givat Haviva and a sponsor of several Jewish-Arab coexistence projects for some ten years.



U.S. Ambassador Richard Jones with Ahmad Bdair, Co-Director, Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, and Myriam Dagan-Brenner, Head of Projects and Resource Development Team

■ In January 2007 Givat Haviva welcomed many university students: North American students in the Jewish Agency's Hagshama department; Australasia Union of Jewish Students (AUJS); Tufts University students and academic staff; groups from Cornell, Ithaca and Kansas universities in the Taglit-Birthright program.



Donations to Givat Haviva can now be made via p as a member of the prestigious Jewish Charities of and represents Jewish charities in workplace fund Excellence (left), indicating that, upon rigorous inc an annual basis that we meet the highest standards



News in Brief

■ **Face-to-Face encounters workshops** took place at Givat Haviva in late October, bringing together 200 Arab students and 200 Jewish high school students on the Givat Haviva campus. The two-day seminars, attended by thousands of Jewish and Arab students each year, are designed to help break through barriers of preconception, fear, alienation and mistrust. Each mixed group is mediated jointly by a Jewish and an Arab facilitator. Participants discuss family, community, culture, nationality and identity.

■ **The Young Arab Leadership program has begun.** Student council members from Arab high schools gathered together for the empowerment of young Arab leadership. The 16 groups (20 students per group) that will meet over the course of this year will discuss Jewish-Arab partnership, community activity, democratic values and equality.

■ **A unique “Teachers on Sabbatical” course** opened in November, bringing together 20 educators of varied backgrounds. The teachers came to learn about the three monotheistic religions, the history of the Middle East, educational democracy, Arab-Jewish relations, and how to educate for peace and tolerance. The course includes educational travel throughout the Middle East and the Mediterranean Basin. The next group opens on the Givat Haviva campus in February.

■ At Givat Haviva’s Art Center, the **Through Others’ Eyes photography project** began its fifth year with 40 participants from Baq’a El-Gharbia and the surrounding area. The project brings together Arab and Jewish youth who use photography as a tool for exploring the subjects of coexistence and identity. A concluding exhibit will be mounted in the spring displaying the students’ work.



Payroll deductions! Givat Haviva Educational Foundation has been accepted in America, a confederation of independent non-profit organizations that certifies non-profit drives. GHEF has been awarded the JCA’s Independent Charities Seal of Independent review, it has been certified, documented, and demonstrated on the basis of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness.

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The Givat Haviva Institute in Israel, founded in 1949, educates and acts to empower Israeli Jews, Arabs, women and youth, to promote equality and human dignity within and between all elements of Israeli society, and to close the gaps between them.

Representing and supporting Givat Haviva in the United States, Givat Haviva Educational Foundation (GHEF) promotes this message through educational programming, speaker forums and presentations that expose stereotypes and foster greater understanding.

Givat Haviva Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status. Your tax-deductible donation will help us continue and grow Givat Haviva's many important programs.

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