

Neighbors for Joint Development in the Galilee

Fall 2007 Newsletter

Shalom to all our friends and supporters!

At the start of a new Jewish New Year and the Moslem month of Ramadan, we send you our best wishes.

We look forward with hope and excitement to a productive year for Neighbors, in which our projects will help make the Galilee a place of greater cooperation and prosperity.

In this newsletter, we invite you to take a closer look on one of the many activities we are involved in – and to enter the New Year with the sweet taste of a hopeful and positive initiative.

Tamra and Mitzpe Aviv Sachnin and Yuvalim

In our "**Planning for a Shared Landscape**" initiative, Neighbors has been intensively involved over the past year in creating true partnerships between residents of the Arab city of Tamra and the neighboring Jewish community village of Mitzpe Aviv, and between residents of the Arab city of Sachnin and the nearby Jewish community of Yuvalim.

This is being accomplished through a process that is creating a model for dialogue between neighboring multi-cultural communities in Israel, in order to increase economic and cultural cooperation, solve problems, and prevent violence.

Here are some images and descriptions of the various stages of the process:

Dialogue Workshops



After resident teams were formed from each community, two-day dialogue workshops took place, to bring to the surface the differences in outlook, fears and concerns of the participants, while giving them time to socialize together.

Joint Planning

This is the core of the process, joint planning by the residents themselves, facilitated by Neighbors.



Participants brainstormed about the themes to be discussed, and are currently formulating plans for the future, to be publicized in writing and at a conference. The Tamra and Mitzpe Aviv team, for example, has focused on three themes: Creating an agreement on a joint access road that has been a source of conflict between the two communities, collaboration on employment and economic development, and ways to increase contact between residents.

Youth Art Workshops



Younger residents are involved in the process through joint creative work that will be part of the public space. Thanks to the Sobell Foundation

for support of this element of the project.

The Future

For most of the participants, this was their first opportunity to get to know their neighbors. Toward the close of an intense and complex process, they want much more than that. We intend to continue working with them on implementing the plans and initiatives that they have proposed.

We thank the European Union and the Kathryn Ames Foundation for their support for this project.

We invite you to the Galilee. In addition to personal visits that we always welcome, we can plan a tour and discussion for groups interested in learning first-hand about the unique challenges that our region presents.