

Neighbors for Joint Development in the Galilee

Spring 2007 Newsletter

Shalom to all our friends and supporters!

Here is an update on recent activities:

The Master Plan

Work on the Master Plan for the Heart of the Galilee is underway, mapping out the future development of the region in a large range of fields, with the goal of maximizing cooperation between communities while preserving a open green areas. A **data-base** of the populations of the Northern region is being formed, necessary in order to conduct the physical, environmental and strategic planning of the Galilee. Based on this data, the theme of **urbanization in the Arab sector in the Galilee** is being studied, as well as **infrastructure and services in Arab communities** and their financial and environmental costs. Thanks to the Beracha Foundation and the Moriah Fund for their support of our work on the Master Plan.

Neighbors' members are conducting an in-depth study on **agriculture in the Arab sector, its preservation and development**, with proposals for the future to include joint Jewish-Arab agricultural initiatives, agricultural tourism, and organic agriculture. This study is part of the Nekudat Chen initiative led by Yad Hanadiv.

Planning for a Shared Landscape

With funding from the European Union Initiative on Human Rights and Democracy, the Kathryn Ames Foundation, the Sobell Foundation, and the Marvell Donation Committee, we have created resident planning teams from the two pairs of neighboring Jewish and Arab communities, Mitzpe Aviv and Tamra and Yuvalim and Sachnin. Intensive two-day dialogue workshops laid the groundwork for the joint planning process, taking place currently. Teenage residents will soon join the process, creating an outdoor art

and landscape design project for the neighboring communities.



Tamra-Mitzpe Aviv dialogue workshop

Cooperative Projects with Other Non-Profit Organizations

Two recent collaborations: Neighbors is joining forces with the Progressive Forum to conduct a pilot project to **map out street names and addresses in Arab villages**, increasing access to services, and furthering democracy by enabling anonymous voting (with polling stations assigned to neighborhoods, rather than according to last names).

Neighbors has joined a project for the development of the **Hilazon Valley Park**, to include ecological, educational, and archeological activities.

Our New Office

In the fall we moved to a more spacious office in Sachnin. It's on the main street, above the Orange cell-phone office. Come visit us!



Read about us on the web-site of Ameinu:

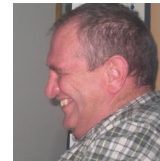
<http://www.ameinu.net/perspectives/israel.php?articleid=135>

Meet our new Co-Director:

Urban and regional planner **Tovi Alfandari** joins **Naim Daoud** as our new Co-Director. Project Director for Neighbors since its inception,



Naim Daoud



Tovi Alfandari

Tovi has extensive experience in strategic planning and inclusion of the public in planning processes in urban, rural, Arab and Jewish communities.



Former Co-Director **Amiram Goldin** is now directing the new Shatil Office for social

change organizations in Northern Israel, and of course remains very active in Neighbors.

Meetings with Decision-Makers

Many meetings with decision-makers have taken place over the past months, focusing on introducing them to Neighbors' Master Plan Project. These include meetings with the "Tzafona" company that is developing a government-initiated strategic plan for the North, with senior staff at the Ministry of Tourism, the Northern Development Agency, and the Ministry for the Development of the Negev and the Galilee. On the local government level, meetings have taken place with the mayors of Tamra, Sachnin and the Misgav Regional Council Head.