

גבעת חביבה
جبعات حبيبه
Givat Haviva



2015

Givat Haviva Update December 2015

Letter from our Executive Director

2015 was a confusing year. On the one hand, the difficult and complex reality of relations between Jews and Arabs following escalation of the conflict, legislation in the Knesset, the government's moves against the Islamic movement, etc., and on the other hand, a flowering and expansion of the range of our activities at Givat Haviva, in both quality and quantity. A year of breakthrough in the scope of our activity and at the same time a year in which the walls in the heart between Israel's Arabs and Jews grew even higher.

This is our reality, and it drives our work with increasing intensity and urgency. Let's talk numbers: Our Shared Communities Program has expanded to include eight municipalities in the region, encompassing 160,000 inhabitants. Givat Haviva's Educational Programs are reaching 15,000 children and teenagers. Six thousand visitors from abroad have come to the Givat Haviva to learn and understand the complexity of the conflict and our methods and strategy to solve it.

Add to them the hundreds of students of Arabic, our "Dialogue Tent", and the three major conferences we held – altogether we reached more than two thousand additional participants. When you count the additional activities related to our mission taking place on the campus of Givat Haviva, you come to more than 200,000 people in the circle directly participating in our activities and programs. This is already a significant critical mass, indicating an openness to our agenda that exists today and a comprehension of the necessity of our efforts by many different players in the region and the country.

We welcome 2016 with hope, preparing the infrastructure needed for the hard work that awaits us. We are increasing our cooperation with the government, which has renewed its support for our educational programs for a shared society. With government support, we expect to double or even triple our Hebrew Enrichment program "Yihyeh B'Seder" that already encompasses ten thousand students.

We are expanding our plans to involve the public in the coming years as well, as, with European Union support, we will embark on a grand plan to formulate a shared Jewish-Arab vision for the future of our country. This year we will also open new programs that will lead to our campus being filled with students from Israel and abroad, who will come to Givat Haviva for extended periods to study peace, sustainability, and multi-cultural partnership.

These programs are in development and we will report on them in detail in the coming months of 2016 as we approach their implementation. This is our way to deal with our complex reality – to do more and increase our involvement and influence. Together we will bring hope and build a shared and equitable society. Welcome, 2016.

Yaniv Sagee

Executive Director, Givat Haviva

Activity Highlights

Equality



A big congratulations goes to Anhar Massarwi, director of Givat Haviva's women's department, who was honored as one of 50 "Working Class Heroes" in leading newspaper Yediot Aharonot's year-end survey of the people behind the most important social struggles of 2015. Anhar is behind Givat Haviva's programs empowering Arab and Jewish women in business and politics, and also the Recipes for Peace program that brings Jewish and Arab women from neighboring communities into each other's homes.

Municipal and Regional Partnerships



Megiddo and Maale Iron celebrated the first anniversary of their partnership with a festive picnic near the Megiddo junction, attended by the partnership steering committee members from both municipalities,

both mayors, and Yaniv Sagee, Givat Haviva's executive director, and Riad Kabha, director of Givat Haviva's Jewish-Arab Center for Peace.

As one piece of that partnership, a delegation of 10 high school students from Megiddo and 11 from Maale Iron travelled to Germany under Givat Haviva's auspices, to meet with a delegation of German youth and participate in a series of workshops and activities on topics including identity, recognition of the other, racism and discrimination, refugees, and the history of Germany and of Israel. They stayed at the Kurt Lowerstein Institute in Brandenburg, Germany, and in the homes of German host families.



The fourth and newest Shared Communities Partnership was launched between the Arab local authority of Zemer and the neighboring Jewish regional authority of Emek Hefer. The two mayors signed the agreement, and formed the steering committees that will guide the project. A Recipes for Peace program is already underway with women from the two communities, and much more activity will follow.

Education

A warm welcome to the new co-director of our Education Department, Shimrit Biton-Semo, who will join Samer Atamneh in leading our educational programming. Shimrit comes to us from Perach, a nationwide mentoring program pairing Jewish and Arab university students with Jewish and Arab youths from underprivileged backgrounds. We wish Shimrit and Samer much success in their new partnership!

75 Educators for a Shared Society completed their training in Givat Haviva's Regional Education program in geography, civics, environment, regionalism, and joint learning. Nine new partnered classes are set to begin working together in January.

Meetings of all the youth encounter programs – Children Teaching Children, Face to Face, and Shared Space Encounters – continued to bring Jewish and Arab classes together for dialogue and friendship.



Public Engagement

In December Givat Haviva joined all of Israel's Left in mourning the passing of Yossi Sarid. Executive Director Yaniv Sagee wrote the following:

Together with all those who love this country, the peace camp, and Givat Haviva, I mourn the passing of Yossi Sarid, who was a partner in the struggle for the soul and the character of the State of Israel. I knew Yossi when he was Minister of Education, and I never forgot the attention and encouragement he gave me in my position as head of the National Council of Youth Movements and general secretary of HaShomer HaTzair.

Yossi was the clear voice of the Left and the Peace Camp, a voice that was sharp as a knife and was unwilling to remain silent in the face of any injustice in the one country that he knew and loved, always loyal to his belief that one should demand more from what he loves most. Yossi was a politician, but first and foremost an educator who believed in education as the key to shaping the character of Israeli society. This was the aim of his actions and writings, and the source of his support for Givat Haviva's activities in his various positions in politics and the public sphere.

We at Givat Haviva will remember his vision and continue to work according to its inspiration, for the sake of an equal society: shared by all its members and sectors, pursuing peace and justice, democratic, and pure in thought and deed. His untimely death marks the loss of a pathbreaker who never tired of striving for "Tikkun Olam" – striving for the betterment of the world and mankind. We will derive comfort from his actions and his ways.

Cultural and Language Immersion



The art gallery at Kibbutz Ramot Menashe hosted an exhibit of Fuad Agbariah's paintings as part of the Shared Communities Program. Fuad Agbariah is an accomplished artist and teacher from Maale Iron, whose subject matter includes scenes from his childhood home of nearby Musmus, rendered with social and political sensitivity. The Dec 5 opening was attended by many people, including both mayors and representatives from Givat Haviva, and marks the beginning of cooperation in the field of art between the two communities.

On Dec 24, Givat Haviva hosted a full-day training seminar for youth soccer coaches from the area under the auspices of Soccer for Peace. Soccer for Peace founder Ori Winitzer joined the program along with his wife and kids, and awarded plaques of recognition to the presenters. The program included theoretical and hands-on instruction on safe and effective soccer training for all ages with expert Willem Luyckx, a presentation on conflict management from Hod Ben Tzvi, president of the Universal Peace Federation International in Israel, and a panel featuring Moshe Izdi, head of the Soccer School in Pardes Hanna, Aid Habshi, player for Maccabi Haifa who got his start at a Soccer for Peace camp, and Wa'il Mahameed, professional director of soccer from Kafr Kara, all facilitated elegantly by Shadi B'shara from Channel 2.



