

## UPDATE ON PROJECTS UNDERWAY

### Overview of Partner Schools

#### • Sur Baher Girls High School and the Afak School for Special Education •

Students and teachers continued to utilize the WRAP rainwater systems in their environmental education programs at both schools located in East Jerusalem. In the spring, the annual environmental fair was held at the Sur Baher School for Girls; this year the theme was, "Being an Agent for Change." There were about 75 different experiments on display, including demonstrations by the students using the water quality test equipment donated by WRAP. WRAP hosted an environmental-themed photo competition on the [plant4peace](#) blog, garnering strong support and enthusiasm from teachers and students. Prizes for the best photo and caption were awarded at the fair. In addition, the final version of the e-book about the environmental programs at both schools was published [online](#).



WRAP recognizes Sur Baher Girls School Environmental Educator Zoubaida Salman.

#### • Galilee Paired-Schools Project: Tubas Zangaria and Eynot Yarden •



Rainwater harvesting system installed by Tubas Zangaria.

A paired-school project involving students from the Bedouin village of Tubas Zangaria and the Eynot Yarden High School on Kibbutz Amir was established in 2014 with the assistance of the Arava Institute. Despite some technical difficulties at the beginning of the year, the students at Eynot Yarden, collected rainwater harvesting data in 2016 and plan to add an herb garden next to the system in order to make it more attractive. The program was very successful at the school in Tuba Zangaria for the second year. Although drought occurred this past year, 38,000 liters were used at the Tubas Zangaria school during the winter. Since installation in 2014, the water tanks have been painted

by the students and now a beautiful garden abuts the system enclosure. According to the paired-school coordinator, Liad Amir, a project about eatable wild plants was established and data about the project was posted on the school boards in Hebrew and Arabic. An e-book describing this project is being planned.

## Blog Connects Students Abroad

This year, WRAP and its partners, the Albuquerque Academy and the Sur Baher Girls School, continued their collaboration on the [plant4peace](#) blog. The blog links environmental clubs at each school to allow students to share stories and pictures of their environmental projects. WRAP's role, led by volunteer Margaret Ferrato, is to assist in managing and maintaining the blog and arranging for timely translations.



Visit the [plant4peace blog](#).

A grant from Georgetown University was obtained to fund the translation services. At Sur Baher Girls School, the environmental club has been working on recycling, utilizing their rainwater harvesting system, and maintaining an herb garden, from which they create various environmentally friendly products. At Albuquerque Academy, members of the environmental club have been exploring the local environment and tending their own garden, where they have planted spinach, lettuce, turnips, radishes, and other vegetables. Students and teachers at both schools regularly post pictures, stories and poems in English and Arabic.

## Fundraising, Partnerships, and Outreach

### • Fundraising •

In June, a team of WRAP volunteers led by WRAP Advisor Leora Jaeger submitted an application for a major grant opportunity sponsored by USAID. The Conflict Management and Mitigation USAID Grant proposal involved working with schools in Israel, West Bank, Jordan and the U.S. to help students to learn about water-related topics, including water awareness, methods of rainwater collection and reuse, greywater testing and reuse, water pollution (especially in cross-border regions), and other topics. New methods to connect schools such as online gaming were proposed. The process of writing the proposal led to the formation of new partnerships with organizations involved in people-to-people peace building, including the Amuta for Health Education in Israel (Jerusalem), the David Yellin College (Jerusalem), and the Peace Tech Lab (Washington, DC).

In 2016, WRAP was again selected as a beneficiary of the Environmental Peacebuilding Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of New Mexico, announced at the Albuquerque Community Earth Day Seder.

### • Notable Presentations •

Malcolm Siegel, Director of Operations and Education, gave a number of presentations about WRAP activities. The audiences included the Fellowship of the Desert (January 2016; Albuquerque, NM), Congregation B'nai Israel (September 2016; Albuquerque NM) and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Projects (Denver, CO; September 2016).

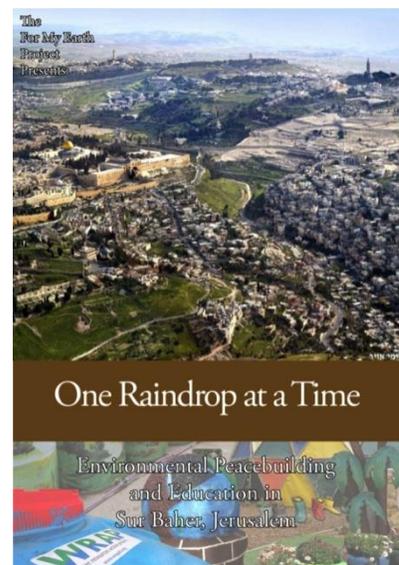
## • WRAP Emissary Program •

The potential for establishing new WRAP programs at several schools was explored through the participation of WRAP Emissaries – friends or colleagues of WRAP Board members who were traveling to Israel and agreed to meet with school officials in towns where they had personal connections. WRAP Emissaries visited the Mayor of Ra'anana and met with senior staff in the office of the Mayor of Rechovot to explore the possibility for WRAP programs at schools in these cities. In addition, the Albuquerque-Rechovot Sister City Program agreed to include WRAP in its potential programs to create activities that tie the two cities together.

## Anticipated Release of For My Earth E-Book – One Raindrop at a Time!

The For My Earth project of the University of New Mexico in collaboration with WRAP recently announced the release of its e-book entitled, "[\*One Raindrop at a Time: Environmental Peacebuilding and Education in Sur Baher, Jerusalem.\*](#)" The book details the rainwater harvesting and environmental projects that WRAP and its partner schools have undertaken in Sur Baher, Jerusalem.

The proceeds from the e-book will be used to fund additional environmental and science education projects at the schools. By purchasing this book for \$10, you become a partner in this project! Contribute to the future of environmental education at WRAP's schools by visiting <http://www.wrapdc.org/2016/09/16/e-book-one-raindrop-at-a-time/>.



## Partnership with NASA DEVELOP Studies Mideast Water Resources

In partnership with WRAP, a team from [NASA DEVELOP](#) undertook a project during this past summer to utilize NASA Earth Observations to create a precipitation climatology of Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank to identify optimal rainwater harvesting locations for underserved schools in those regions.

The results will supplement WRAP's decision-making process for new project schools by identifying regions most suitable for low-cost, low-tech, rainwater harvesting alternatives.

To view the NASA DEVELOP video, visit <https://vimeo.com/182447849>.



## Introducing WRAP's Newest Members

WRAP is pleased to introduce its newest additions!



**Randa Masri** joins WRAP as a Board Advisor. Ms. Masri is the founder and CEO of ConnectME, a social enterprise established to support the development of a sustainable, prosperous economy in Palestine and of the economies in transition across the wider Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region. Prior to establishing ConnectME, Ms. Masri worked in Washington, DC. as an independent consultant to projects focused on Palestinian economic development and private sector engagement across the MENA region. During this time, she engaged partners in the private and public sectors, such as the U.S. State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Aspen Institute and Middle East Investment Initiative. She also serves as a consultant to the President of AMIDEAST, a U.S. non-profit engaged in education, training and development activities in the MENA region, and she co-chairs the US-Palestinian Partnership.

**James Powers** has been a WRAP volunteer since June 2016. Mr. Powers serves as the Assistant to the Executive Director of EcoPeace's Center for Water Security, based in Washington, DC. In this capacity, he has helped shape the Center's strategy for project design and site selection, in addition to conducting research for the Center. He recently graduated from The Fletcher School at Tufts University, where he studied International Environment & Resource Policy as well as International Negotiation & Conflict Resolution. Prior to graduate school, Mr. Powers was Senior & Principal Analyst with SAIC, where he led a team of social network analysts in support of Department of Defense operations overseas.



To read our new members' full bios, visit <http://www.wrapdc.org/who-we-are/>.

## WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2017

### New Projects Underway

- **Kibbutz Gezer Education Center, Israel** •



WRAP's newest project underway at Kibbutz Gezer.

WRAP is excited to announce its next rainwater harvesting project is under construction at the Kibbutz Gezer Education Center located in central Israel between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Gezer is a pluralistic community, with both Jews and non-Jews, observant and non-observant, many active in developing better relations between Jews and Arabs. The Education Center has 100 children in pre-school/kindergarten and 80 youth in grades 1-12. The Center is located on a green campus in the center of the community with staff of 30 educators that view the outdoors as the real classroom.

The rainwater harvesting system will supplement the strong environmental education program already in place at the Kibbutz, strengthening the youth's connection to water, nature, and our limited resources. WRAP will work with the Kibbutz to foster relationships with its other partner schools, initially through an exchange of information, and subsequently through personal relationships.

### • WRAP Expands into Jordan •

WRAP is partnering with EcoPeace's Office in Amman, Jordan and the Rotary Club of Amman West to construct a rainwater harvesting system at the Abu-Alanda High School, North Shuneh High School near Amman, and the Sharhabeel Eco Park in northern Jordan. Completion of construction is anticipated by year-end. WRAP will provide in-kind support to each school tied to metrics tracking and data reporting gathered by student groups from the rainwater harvesting systems.

### • WRAP Triplets Program •

WRAP is continuing to develop the WRAP Triplets Program, in which three schools (Jewish, Arab, and American) will interact as a cluster to exchange blogs, share information about their environmental projects, and participate in joint activities such as contests. The first Triplet will comprise the Sur Baher Girls School, the Albuquerque Academy, and the Kibbutz Gezer School. The plant4peace blog, which currently includes posts in English and Arabic from the initial two schools, will host posts from the school at Kibbutz Gezer in 2017. During 2017-2018, WRAP hopes to send a representative of each school (WRAP Triplet Ambassadors) on a tour of the three host schools.

## Phase II Planned for Hands Across Waters Program



Hi-Teach's Dr. Amnon Shefi leads implementation of the Hands Across the Waters Program.

The Rotary Hands Across Waters (RHAW) Phase II program will convene students throughout Israel from varying cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds around a shared experience of learning about water and sanitation, resource development, environmental stewardship and sustainable conservation. In so doing, it will allow for productive interaction, greater understanding, and establishment of trust between diverse youth in the face of existing challenges, leveraging the successes and lessons learned of the Phase I

program. To accomplish this, 20 schools will join the program, 10 of which will continue their successful participation from the previous year, and 10 new schools from a list of 30 candidates.

The program follows a successful pilot effort implemented in 2015 by Dr. Amnon Shefi, founder of Hi-Teach, which formed a network of 13 schools throughout Israel including Jewish, Arab (Muslim and Christian) students promoting cross-sector cooperation by educating students on pertinent water-related topics such as desalination, waste water reclamation, effective agricultural irrigation and water quality.

WRAP is a proud supporter of the RHAW program and its Board Member, Dr. Jerry Sussman, continues to be instrumental in the advancement of the overall effort. To learn more about this program, visit [www.handsacrosswaters.org](http://www.handsacrosswaters.org).

## New Volunteer Program Manager Positions

In an effort to expand the range of opportunities for people to volunteer with WRAP, we are announcing a new structure for WRAP volunteers. In 2017, WRAP will use a variety of online and other networking tools to recruit qualified students and professionals for volunteer Program Manager Positions in the following areas:

- Fundraising
- Community Outreach/Communication
- Education
- Operations
- Marketing
- School Coordinator(s)

Visit the WRAP website in 2017 to learn about the responsibilities associated with these positions.

## LEND YOUR SUPPORT

- Direct Impact • Educate • Conserve • Build Community •

Every penny of every dollar WRAP receives goes directly to our projects, providing water for sanitation to hundreds of school children in the Middle East, educating students and communities on water and environmental stewardship, and promoting cross-cultural exchange through the shared experience of water conservation.

### Please consider donating before year-end

- New 2017 WRAP Donor Recognition Levels •

In an effort to better recognize the monetary contributions of WRAP supporters, we are announcing new WRAP Donor Recognition Levels for 2017. Visit the WRAP website in 2017 to learn more.

- Platinum level: \$1,000 donation
- Gold level: \$500 donation
- School patron: \$250 donation
- Supporter: \$100 donation
- Member: \$50 donation

- Make A Donation •

Use the button to donate or donate by mail:

**Water Resources Action Project**  
1001 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 7115  
Washington, DC 20004



- AmazonSmile •

Support WRAP through purchases on Amazon this holiday purchases.

Get started at:  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0541423>



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