

## UPDATE ON PROJECTS UNDERWAY

### Overview of Partner Schools

#### • Kibbutz Gezer Expansion Complete •

The installation of WRAP's seventh rainwater harvesting project at Kibbutz Gezer Education Center located in central Israel between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem was completed in March 2017, and the system was expanded in November 2017. Gezer is a pluralistic community, with both Jews and non-Jews, observant and nonobservant, 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.



*Students record rainfall measurements at Kibbutz Gezer*

The rainwater harvesting system supplements the strong environmental education program already in place at the Kibbutz, strengthening the students' connection to water, nature, and our limited resources. Students will be involved with the care and maintenance of the system, measuring rainfall and water usage, and learning about the importance of water in the environment. 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.

The installation of the rainwater harvesting system at Kibbutz Gezer and the parallel environmental curriculum was made possible by a generous grant from The International Foundation.

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

WRAP continues to develop its programs at two schools in the village of Sur Baher, located on the outskirts of East Jerusalem. This year, WRAP developed its first "triplet" exchange of three schools (Arab-Jewish-American), sharing information about their environmental education activities. The schools include the Sur Baher Girls High School in East Jerusalem, the Kibbutz Gezer Education Center in Israel, and the Albuquerque Academy in New Mexico, US.



The Academy maintains the [plant4peace blog](#), whereby students and teachers post stories about their environmental projects in English and Arabic.



Winners of School Photo Competition: Albuquerque (left top); Kibbutz Gezer (left bottom); and Sur Baher (right)



The three schools participated in WRAP's second annual environmental photo/caption competition. The students selected the best entries from each school and awards were given to the students and school. An award was given at the Sur Baher annual environmental school fair by Dani Livney, WRAP's local partner.

To view all winning photos from each school, visit the [plant4peace blog](#) and scroll down to the April 29 entry.

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



*Liad Amir works with students to connect the rainwater harvesting system to a garden at Eynot Yarden school*

In the upper Galilee of Israel, WRAP continued to support rainwater harvesting at the Mekif Tuba School in Tuba Zangaria and the Eynot Yarden School on Kibbutz Amir. An increase in the cost of water due to drought has made the WRAP systems ever more important. A significant accomplishment in 2017 was the hiring of Liad Amir, an education coordinator to facilitate cross-cultural environmental projects involving the Arab and Jewish students at the two schools.

Working with the geography teacher at Eynot Yarden and the headmaster at Mekif Tuba, Liad is developing a program consisting of four joint environmental education meetings between the Arab and Jewish students. Subjects to be discussed are cultivation of edible plants used in traditional agriculture and remediation of a local spring. In addition, WRAP allocated funds to purchase a weather station for Eynot Yarden and will help raise funds for a greenhouse at Mekif Tuba. These activities will be connected to water conservation efforts at Mekif Tuba, joint projects with local Tel Chai College, and an Arabic language program for the Jewish students.

## Partnership with EcoPeace Expands to Jordan

Building upon its successful partnership with EcoPeace's Office in the West Bank, WRAP teamed with EcoPeace's Office in Amman, Jordan and the Rotary Club of Amman West to construct rainwater harvesting systems at Lenticular Secondary School for Boys in Al Adaseya; Ali Ibn Abi Taleb for Boys in Marka; and Sharhabil Bin Hassneh EcoPark in the Northern Jordan Valley.

A parallel environmental education program complements each system, engaging students in hands-on monitoring and reporting of system data, offering lessons about environmental science, water stewardship, conservation, and WASH training. The system installation and its accompanying environmental education program build upon the EcoPark's current efforts to preserve and promote ecologically important habitats. Furthermore, the project facilitates field trips to the EcoPark for the students of the Lenticular and Marka Schools, connecting the educational curriculum and exposing the students to broader and more tangible environmental concepts.

The effort was made possible through a Rotary International Global Grant with generous financial contributions by the Rotary Club of Amman West, Jordan (Host Club), Rotary Club Washington, DC (International Lead), Rotary Club of Wangen-Isny-Leutkirch, Germany, and Rotary Club of Frobach, France.



*WASH training at Sharhabil Bin Hassneh EcoPark, Northern Jordan Valley*

## Creativity for Peace Scholarship



*Palestinian Lama Khaled (left) and Israeli Eden Vakni (right) participate in Creativity for Peace Camp; Photo Credit: AFP*

"Since 2003, hundreds of Palestinian and Israeli girls aged 15-17 have visited a summer camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico; for three weeks, the girls create joint experiences and are able to listen to and understand the opposite side," as reported in [YnetNews.com](http://YnetNews.com).

In 2017, WRAP provided a partial scholarship to Lama Khaled, a student from the Sur Baher Girl's school, to attend the Creativity for Peace (CFP) Camp.

Every year up to 20 girls – half Jewish Israelis and half Palestinians from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza – share their experiences of the Arab-Israeli

conflict as part of a total of 40 hours of dialogue founded on the notion that "an enemy is a person whose story you haven't heard." Almost all have lost family and friends to violence and most will have never before spoken to members of the opposite side, as stated in [YnetNews.com](http://YnetNews.com).

This summer, WRAP representatives hosted a luncheon for all students at the camp. CFP provides a unique opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of one another. WRAP looks forward to developing an ongoing relationship with CFP, reaching out to camp graduates to serve as WRAP ambassadors in Palestinian and Israeli schools.

## Celebrating WRAP's Partners

WRAP's efforts would not be possible without the grassroots support of its in-country partners. WRAP celebrates their continued commitment towards environmental peacebuilding.

**Amir Yechieli**, Rainwater Harvesting Specialist, is renowned for designing, constructing, and managing rainwater harvesting and gray water recycling systems in 160 schools around Israel. The projects have resulted in improved savings for each school, as well as demonstrating for the students a sustainable use of resources, allowing for an in-depth exploration of fundamental and ethical questions regarding the relationship of humans to their surroundings. The practical management of the system permits students to assess the efficiency of the model and calculate the amount of water and funds the system has saved their school.



Financed and mediated by the U.S. Geological Survey and the EEU, Amir led the multilateral "Rain Catcher" project with Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority as partners. Currently, Amir is working with schools in Africa, and Central America on projects to provide students with sufficient water for drinking and personal hygiene, thus allowing more students, especially girls, to attend and study effectively.



**Zoubaida Salman** has served as a Science Teacher and Environment and Health Coordinator at the Sur Baher Girls School in East Jerusalem for the past 22 years. Since WRAP's inception, it has been a proud supporter of the school and Zoubaida's efforts to champion environmental peacebuilding. Zoubaida has led the school's involvement in WRAP's Plant4Peace blog and For My Earth e-book, *One Raindrop at a Time*.

Within the Sur Baher community, Zoubaida continues to inspire other schools to develop advanced environment, health and science studies, especially for adolescent girls.

This year, WRAP hired **Liad Amir**, an environmental educator, to coordinate the joint projects involving the Arab students at Mekif Tuba High School in the Bedouin village of Tuba Zangaria and Jewish students at the Eynot Yarden High School in Kibbutz Amir. Liad studied Environmental Science at Tel Hai college and completed his Masters of Education at Haifa University last year.

During 2013-2014, he worked as an environmental teacher at Mekif Tuba High School and coordinated environmental projects between Eynot Yarden and Mekif Tuba as part of the Youth Environmental Education Peace Initiative (YEEPI) of the Arava Institute of Environmental Studies.

Liad feels WRAP provides him the flexibility to apply new approaches and be adaptive while working with the schools. He feels it's "an art" to help a project become significant for the students and the faculty, until finally the school(s) adopt it. He believes water is a unifying issue, that transcends borders, religions and conflict, which is why the education systems embrace the subject.



## WRAP Welcomes Newest Board Members

WRAP is thrilled to announce its newest Board Members!



**Mindi Snarposky** is a hydrogeologist in the Superfund (CERCLA) program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her work entails investigating groundwater, soil and surface water at National Priorities List (NPL) sites, Federal Facilities, and non-NPL sites for remediation. In this capacity, she works with a team of EPA toxicologists and ecologists, the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and state and local partners. She has been involved with Region III environmental education outreach activities from the kindergarten level through high school, as well as a past volunteer for evaluation of EPA Environmental Education and Environmental Justice grants. She spearheaded the Region's involvement with the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank. Her interest in WRAP stems from a lifetime longing for peace and justice in the region and a willingness to become involved on the local level to assist in this process.



Previously an Advisor to WRAP, **Leora Jaeger** will now serve as a Board Member, continuing to lend her expertise in grant writing, program development, partner relationships, and collaborative projects. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of California at Los Angeles, a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University, and training in community empowerment and Community Based Participatory Research from the University of New Mexico Master's in Public Health Program. She is President of LJS Consulting, Inc. and has taken lead roles in numerous public health planning and evaluation projects including many surveys and focus groups designed to assess perceptions and impacts of a wide range of public health and educational programs.

# WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2018

## New Projects Planned and Underway

### • Plant4Peace Blog Grows Student Connections Abroad •

Digital technology offers a great opportunity to engage youth in conflict mitigation through video games, gamification, mobile platforms, social media, and teleconferences. Since 2015, WRAP has enabled mid-school students in the Sur Baher Girls High School in East Jerusalem, at Kibbutz Gezer in Israel, and in Albuquerque, New Mexico to share their personal stories, photos, updates from their respective gardens, and interests in protecting the environment in the [plant4peace blog](#).

MAY 19, 2017 / NORACHAMMA

### الجرة Ollas Can Help Save Our Water! الجرة يمكن أن تساعد في توفير المياه لدينا

Why Ollas?

For thousands of years, people have been using buried clay pots—aka ollas—for irrigation in their gardens. This system allows water to seep out of an unglazed and porous pot efficiently, and at a rate that plants need. These underground irrigators are less likely to be damaged or clogged, and the consistent supply of water improves plants' germination, increases crop growth, speeds maturity, reduces disease and altogether, increases yields. They are also perfect for our dry environment, which is one of the main reasons why they are so attractive to desert farmers. In areas with high winds and sandy soils that drain quickly, ollas allow less water to be lost to winds or evaporation, and thus allow a greater quantity of water to go directly to the plants' roots. Likewise, because they are delivering water straight to a plant, less water is taken by weeds. Therefore, ollas are not only water conscientious and efficient, but they also aid farmers in accumulating a greater yield, while decreasing the number of weeds.

لماذا الجرة؟

عند آلاف السنين، كان الناس يستخدمون أواني الطين المدفونة للري في حدائقهم. يسمح هذا النظام للماء بالتسرب من وعاء غير مزجج بسهولة أكثر لله بكفاءة، وبمعدل يحتاج إليه النباتات. ومن المرجح أن يكون الري تحت الأرض أقل عرضة للتلف أو الصدأ، والإمداد المستمر للمياه يحسن إنبات النباتات، ويزيد من نمو المحاصيل، وسرعة النضج، ويقلل من المرض تماماً كما أنها مثالية للبيئة الجافة لدينا، والتي هي واحدة من الأسباب الرئيسية لماذا هي فعالة جداً للزارعين الصحراويين. في المناطق ذات الرياح العكسية والترربة الرملية التي تستنزف بسرعة، تسمح الجرات بتوفير كميات أقل من المياه للرياح أو التبخر، وبالتالي تسمح لكمية أكثر من الماء بالذهاب مباشرة إلى جذور النباتات. وبالمثل، لأنهم يملكون المياه مباشرة إلى النبات، يتم أخذ كميات أقل من المياه للأعشاب الضارة. ولذلك، فإن الجرات ليس توفر المياه ولكنها تساعد أيضاً المزارعين في الحصول على عدد أكثر، و تخفض عدد الأعشاب الضارة.

### • Development of Web-Based Application •

In 2017, the WRAP Digital Work Group developed a scope of work to expand WRAP's ability to build relationships and understanding between students through online communication about shared water conservation and other environmental concerns and projects. WRAP will be releasing a Scope of Work to potential funders and developers in the first quarter of 2018. Through an in-kind contribution, WRAP is building upon a student and family healthy lifestyle web application that is in development in New Mexico.

The key project objectives include development of a user-friendly, trilingual, web-based application for students based on the input of teachers and students in Palestine, Israel, and the U.S. When complete, the web app would provide a safe, online environment that respects the different cultures while allowing students to develop one-on-one and group relationships.

In Spring 2018, WRAP will enhance its successful plant4peace blog through a pilot project using the [Voice Thread communication software](#), a pre-K through 12th grade communication network. Students will have an opportunity to share their thoughts about each other's contributions.

### • Phase II Commences for Rotary Hands Across Waters •

The Rotary Hands Across Waters (RHAW) Phase II program builds upon a successful pilot effort implemented in 2015 by Hi-Teach, which formed a network of 13 diverse schools throughout Israel, including Jewish, Arab (Muslim and Christian), and Druze students. Phase II is now underway with 20 schools participating in the program, 10 of which continue their successful participation from the previous year, and 10 new schools from a list of 30 candidates. The students and faculty will continue expand their collaborative activities that stress the interconnectedness of their resources, while working towards the goal of protecting their shared environment.



Click on image to view video on RHAW featured at June 2017 Rotary National Conference in Atlanta, GA

Of the 1,165 Global Grant projects supported by The Rotary Foundation (TRF) this past year, RHAW was selected as one of 20 noteworthy global grant-funded projects featured at The Rotary National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in June 2017. Click on the following link to view the video created by TRF for the program – [Video Link](#)

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).

## Volunteer Opportunities

In an effort to expand the range of opportunities for people to volunteer with WRAP, we are announcing the latest positions:

- Student Extern
- Fundraising
- Community Outreach
- Education
- Operations
- Marketing
- School Coordinator

If you are interested in joining our team and making a real difference, email [info@wrapdc.org](mailto:info@wrapdc.org).

## LEND YOUR SUPPORT

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.

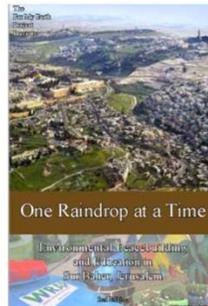
### Give the Gift of Peace and Receive E-Book, *One Raindrop at a Time!*

WRAP needs your help to bring environmental peacebuilding activities to schools in Israel and Palestine!

For every donation of \$10 or more, you will receive our digital e-book, [One Raindrop at a Time](#). The book documents

## GIVE THE GIFT OF PEACE

One Raindrop at a Time eBook - Only \$10/Book



The One Raindrop at a Time eBook documents the work of WRAP in Israel and Palestine, 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.



Arab And Jewish Students Meet At Kibbutz Gezer



WRAP's work in Sur Baher East, Jerusalem, written in collaboration with teachers and students at the Sur Baher Girls Schools, the Afaq School for Special Education, the University of New Mexico, and the Albuquerque Academy.

Proceeds from the e-book will be used to fund additional environmental and science education projects at the schools. By purchasing this book, you become a partner in this project!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) and show your support!

### • New 2018 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:

- **Platinum Plus:** \$1,000+  
*May allocate funds towards a specific project planned or underway; special recognition at school; special recognition on WRAP's website and newsletter; unlimited distribution of e-books for personal use*
- **Platinum Level:** \$1,000  
*Special Recognition on WRAP's website and newsletter; unlimited distribution of e-books for personal use*
- **Gold Level:** \$500  
*Recognition on WRAP's website and newsletter; 20 e-books; and personalized photo collage from school of your choice*
- **School Patron:** \$250  
*Recognition on WRAP's website and newsletter, 20 e-books*

### • 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



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