

2018 Environmental Peacebuilding Project Tour and Workshop

The 2018 Environmental Peacebuilding Project Tour by Board members Malcolm and Leora Siegel took place May 1-13, 2018. During this time, they held an environmental education workshop attended by 20 educators from nine schools. During the workshop, the teachers agreed to participate in a collaborative water testing project (EarthEcho Water Challenge) that would facilitate communication among the schools in the WRAP network.

Malcolm and Leora also visited five sites in Israel and Jordan, where WRAP rainwater harvesting systems have been installed, visited three additional schools in Jerusalem and the West Bank that wished to join the WRAP network, and met with representatives from four additional schools interested in joining WRAP. In addition, they attended two Environmental Fairs where WRAP had made significant contributions and gave awards to three students that had competed in the 2018 WRAP Environmental Photo contest. This mission trip was useful in identifying Israeli and Palestinian educators who are interested in working for WRAP on a paid or volunteer basis. [Click here for additional information.](#)

Updates on Projects Underway

Overview of Partner Schools

• Kibbutz Gezer, Israel •

On May 3, 2018, the first WRAP Workshop was held at Kibbutz Gezer, involving 20 educators and four students from nine schools (Hebrew and Arabic). WRAP engineer and Israel's "Water Harvesting Guru" Amir Yechieli shared information about the water harvesting systems that he has installed throughout the world. Educators learned about the EarthEcho World Monitoring Challenge and were enthusiastic about participating in the 2018 Fall semester. They also received water testing equipment for additional tests beyond the standard EarthEcho tests. Several students from Sur Baher Girls School in East



Malcolm Siegel describes the EarthEcho Water Challenge

Jerusalem made an English presentation about the science projects at their school.

Students from Sur Baher are connected to students at Kibbutz Gezer in Israel and students at the Albuquerque Academy on the multi-lingual [plant4peace](#) blog. This year, students from Sur Baher made two visits to the students at Kibbutz Gezer.



Teacher Zoubaida Salman and students present results of projects at Sur Baher to Workshop participants.

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

Students from the Bedouin School in Tuba Zangaria participated in the 3rd Annual WRAP Environmental Photo contest. The winners were awarded prizes by Malcolm and Leora Siegel during the Environmental Peacebuilding Project Tour. Shortly after, 16 students and two teachers from the Bedouin School in Tuba Zangaria came to visit the Eynot Yarden Kibbutz School. They conducted a tour of the school, visited the rainwater harvesting system and the environmental area (greenhouse) to make signs in Hebrew and Arabic for the fruit trees and plants in the herbal garden.



Students from the Bedouin village of Tuba Zangaria and Eynot Yarden School on Kibbutz Amir working together on environmental projects.

• Sur Baher High School, East Jerusalem •

Students from Sur Baher Girls High School in East Jerusalem participated in the 3rd Annual WRAP Environmental Photo contest and the winners were awarded prizes during the Environmental Peacebuilding Project Tour. At the invitation of Zoubaida Salman, our contact at Sur Baher, Malcolm and Leora Siegel attended their annual science fair, where students filled the school with posters, experiments and demonstrations of their science projects. Ms. Salman is an effective advocate for encouraging young Arab girls to get excited about science and technology.

Students from Sur Baher attended the Environmental Fair at Kibbutz Gezer where they sold personal care products produced in their garden, which is irrigated by the WRAP rainwater system. They recently completed water quality measurements of different local water sources for the EarthEcho Water Challenge using kits supplied by WRAP.



Zoubaida Salman and students



Leora Siegel and students discussing an anatomy project at the Sur Baher Science Fair.

WRAP Welcomes New Schools

WRAP is pleased to announce four new schools in Israel and Palestine joined the WRAP network during 2018. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with the UmTuba Boys School and the A-Tur School in Jerusalem; the HaShita School in Rehovot and the Al Zahara School in Lod. All schools have rainwater harvesting systems previously installed by Amir Yecheili (WRAP's rainwater harvesting engineer) with funding from a number of sponsors.

Under the MOUs, WRAP will support a variety of cross-cultural environmental education programs that include activities such as joint field trips, water testing and participation in the *plant4peace* blog. During the WRAP 2018 Environmental Peacebuilding Project Tour, Malcolm and Leora Siegel visited the extensive environmental projects at the A-Tur School and attended the annual science fair at the invitation of Batool Salman, newly appointed WRAP Advisor.



Leora Siegel and Batool Salman in school hydroponics garden



Students displaying their robotics project at the school science fair.

MOUs were also signed with two schools in Albuquerque, New Mexico – The International School and the Salam Academy will join the Albuquerque Academy to participate in WRAP activities and connect with students in Israel and Palestine.

Local Educators Expand WRAP's Reach

WRAP is pleased to increase the duties of three local educators to help develop and coordinate activities within and between local schools. Amir Yechieli is supporting the schools in Rehovot and Lod, Zoubaida Salman is coordinating the schools in the Jerusalem area, and Liad Amir continues to bring students of Eynot Yarden and Tuba Zangaria together. You can learn more about Zoubaida, Amir, and Liad on WRAP's website.



Amir Yechieli



Zoubaida Salman



Liad Amir

Celebrating WRAP's Partners

WRAP is pleased to announce we are strengthening our partnerships with the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) and EcoPeace. ALLMEP is an alliance of 110 organizations dedicated to supporting people-to-people initiatives to support the peace process. ALLMEP's regional director attended WRAP's workshop and facilitated discussions about a potential new collaborative project between WRAP, ALLMEP, and EcoPeace to bring water harvesting to two schools in Gaza. EcoPeace Middle East is a unique organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists. WRAP has partnered with EcoPeace in Jordan and the West Bank.

WRAP Welcomes Newest Board Members

WRAP is thrilled to announce its newest Advisors!



Rachel Hertzman BA, MS, MA provides support with grant application development and coordination, as well as the *plant4peace* blog and the WRAP Facebook page. She has Master's Degrees in Water Resources, Middle Eastern and North African Studies, and Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico and the University of Arizona. She has completed extensive volunteer work with refugees.

Ms. Hertzman has experience with water-quality monitoring and stormwater management practices and research. She currently works as a planner for the public schools in New Mexico. She hopes that her skill sets may be of benefit to environmental education and alternative energy/natural resources projects in Palestine and Israel. Where much of the focus in the United States is unfortunately on negative aspects in the relations of these communities, her goal is to build a shifting narrative (and possible dialogue) where strengths, as well as growth areas, may be acknowledged, and addressed.



Batool Rjoub Salman, BSc, MS, is a Sustainability Education Consultant, serving as an Advisor to WRAP in Jerusalem. Born in Jerusalem, she earned honors in *Applied Earth Science and Environment* at Al-Quds University in her BSc degree and graduated from the Environmental and Water Studies program at Birzeit University with an MS degree in *Water Technology and Environmental Science*. She has worked as a research assistant at Al Quds University, then with the Canadian NGO CIDA, and with the PWA (Palestinian Water Authority) on a number of hydrogeological projects. She then worked with the Jerusalem Municipality as project manager for schools in East Jerusalem. In addition to WRAP, Batool works with the science education organizations GreenNet and Hi Teach, and with the Israeli educational office on twining projects between Jewish and Arab schools in Jerusalem.

According to Batool, there weren't many well-known Arab Muslim females working on any type of environmental sustainability projects while she was growing up, but she didn't let that stop her from pursuing her goals. Today, she encourages young women and girls to study and follow their dreams. She hopes that her life example teaches others how a working mother can follow her

What's Ahead for 2019

Growing WRAP's Digital Community

For the past three years, WRAP schools in Israel, Palestine, and the United States have posted their photos and thoughts about the environment on the *plant4peace* blog. WRAP is building upon this successful program to create an interactive, safe, and fun online community designed to build relationships and understanding between students, teachers, and families. Users will earn points for participating in enjoyable, cross-cultural environmental activities. Points will be redeemable for equipment to support their environmental programs. The project will consider diversity of academic levels, languages, culture, and available educational resources. Schools outside of WRAP's network will be invited to participate in this online, social media community.



Students from Sur Baher Girls School attended WRAP's 2018 workshop and are enthusiastic about helping to design the app.

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 – grant writing and crowd sourcing
- Community Outreach – bringing in new U.S. schools to the WRAP network
- Education – developing environmental education content
- Operational database management
- Digital Marketing – promoting WRAP digital applications
- U.S. School Coordinator
- Digital applications technical support to connect educators, students, and families
- Translators (Hebrew, Arabic)

If you are interested in joining our team and making a real difference, email 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 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!

The graphic features a blue header with the text "GIVE THE GIFT OF PEACE" and "One Raindrop at a Time eBook - Only \$10/Book". Below the header are three images: a landscape view of a city, a group of people sitting around a table, and a group of people standing in a room. The text "The Sur Baher Girls Schools" is visible in the top left corner of the landscape image, and "Arab And Jewish Students Meet At Kibbutz Gezer" is visible below the group photo image. The title "One Raindrop at a Time" is also present in the middle section of the graphic.

2019 WRAP Donor Recognition Levels

In an effort to better recognize the monetary contributions of WRAP supporters, we are announcing WRAP's Donor Recognition Levels for 2019:

- **Platinum Plus:** \$1,500+
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

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