

# ARZA's Seminar Series:

## *Water— A Building Block for Peace.*

At the heart of these efforts are 3 things: water conservation, water technology education and cross cultural exchange.

These school programs bring together children from diverse ethnic and religious communities to learn and work together on water projects. Please plan to attend and learn how some of us including members of Kol Tikvah are working on an important project which can form a building block for peace.

Mission – Improve quality of life for underserved communities in the Middle East through greater water stewardship, operating with strict political and religious neutrality.

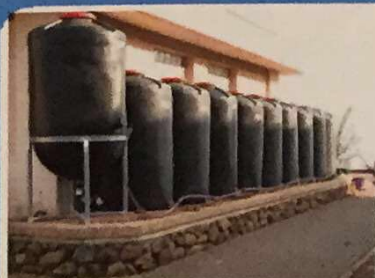
Vision – By easing the growing water conflict and educating individuals and institutions at the grassroots level on the value and interconnectedness of water, a greater awareness and appreciation for human health and the environment will be cultivated.

**WRAP**  
water resources action project...

Lower Jordan River (2011)



Lower Jordan River (1918)



**Brendan McGinnis**, *President of WRAP (Water Resources Action Project)* in Washington, D.C. and a key member of the D.C. Rotary Club 's international section presented an outstanding talk and Slide show to a packed room on the importance of water conservation and technologies to Israel and the Middle East. Mr. McGinnis has worked in Africa, Jordan, the West Bank, East Jerusalem Israel on rainwater harvest systems in the schools. Recently Mr. McGinnis and joined with Dr. Gerald Sussman, President of the Southwest Center for the Study of Hospital and Health Care Systems and The Foundation Chair and past president of the Rotary Club of Coral Springs-Parkland, on an expanded Version of both organizations work with rainwater harvesting systems – **HANDS ACROSS WATERS**.

Where WRAP did one school project a year and SWC through Rotary concentrated on a model program in Lod, Israel, the newly developed Hands Across Waters program will offer a comprehensive approach to educating children at the middle and high school levels on the full array of water technologies to solve the problems of water conservation and reclamation in the Middle East. This program, headed by Dr. Amnon Shefi and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Haifa will be instituted in schools throughout Israel and East Jerusalem and will bring together students from different ethnic and religious backgrounds in the learning process in a series of cross cultural exchanges as they learn about water problems and the technologies to meet them. Cooperating in this venture will be the Technion providing recent advances in research on water technologies and reclamation.

“ Murray and I are very excited to be a part of the Hands Across Waters program, providing students in Israel with hands-on education of water conservation systems and promoting a cross cultural exchange between children from diverse religious, ethnic and economic backgrounds. One of the schools participating in the program is located in Hod Hasharon, where much of my family lives. Congratulations to Jerry who has worked very hard to secure the grant from Rotary International to fund the Hands Across Waters program in Israel. ”

The vision shared by Mr. McGinnis and Dr. Sussman has grown from a modest club to club Rotary project in 2011 to a program which has the support of 4 Rotary Districts (including that of southeast Florida with its 51 Rotary clubs) and more than 25 individual Rotary clubs in 2 countries. In addition to Rotary a number of foundations are now providing their support. Aiding in this exciting effort are members of our own Congregation who wanted to be involved in an action oriented program. Special thanks go to Bob Greenberg, Don Edlin, Harlene and Murray Zweig, Mel Kantor, EJ Leizerman and Bob Bergen. Thanks also go to Rabbi Boxman, Leon and Annette Lipworth, Tina and David Beale, Hedy Sussman and K.T.'s wonderful office and maintenance staff.

For more information on the program go to: ***HandsAcrossWaters.org***.

