

Clergy Circle of Friends of the Arava Institute

Established in 1996 in southern Israel, the Arava Institute is a unique center for environmental education, research, activism, and international cooperation based on a philosophy that all people in the Middle East, despite their political or cultural differences, share the same environment and the same environmental challenges and



The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies

מכון הערבה ללימודי הסביבה

معهد وادي عربة للدراسات البيئية

that this can be a binding force among diverse populations. By bringing together undergraduate and graduate students from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Jordan (as well as North America), including Muslims, Christians, and Jews, to study common environmental issues, the Arava Institute helps to build positive relationships among people of different backgrounds, cultures, and religions who, without the Institute's help, might never have had the opportunity to meet people like each other, let alone work together.

The results have been breath-taking - Jordanian students going back home and convincing their parents that Israelis can be good neighbors, Israeli students learning to understand and empathize with the challenges of their Palestinian neighbors, and real environmental successes - from cross-border research projects on air quality and water management to the amazing germination of a 2,000-year old seed from the long extinct native Israeli date tree. Beneath the incredible environmental work, however, is always the underlying quest towards coexistence and peace. From the Peace and Environmental Leadership Seminar, which works with current students to confront and understand cultural differences, to the Arava Peace and Environmental Network, the first member organization of Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians, which was launched to assist with ongoing contact and communication among alumni, the Arava Institute of Environmental Studies is making a real difference.

Friends of the Arava Institute is the U.S.-based non-profit organization created to provide support and visibility for the Arava Institute across North America.

The Clergy Circle of Friends of the Arava Institute is formed for the purpose of providing a broad and diverse body of North American clergy the opportunity to express their personal support for the ground-breaking mission of the Arava Institute. The Clergy Circle is intended to mirror the Arava Institute's mission of bringing together diverse populations, with the objective of disseminating information to and gathering the endorsement and support of religious communities throughout North America which are inspired by the Institute's mission of environmental sustainability and coexistence.

Friends of the Arava Institute will keep members of the Clergy Circle informed about the most current developments at the Arava Institute and provide support to members who wish to introduce the work of the Institute to their respective constituencies. In addition, Friends of the Arava Institute will apprise its lay leadership of insights and perspectives generated by members of the Clergy Circle.

For more information about the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies or Friends of the Arava Institute, please visit our websites at www.arava.org and www.friendsofarava.org. For further information or questions about the Clergy Circle of Friends of the Arava Institute, please contact Rabbi Michael Cohen, Director of Special Projects, at rabbmichael@friendsofarava.org.

Clergy Circle of Friends of the Arava Institute Member Agreement

By signing below, I agree to become a member of the Clergy Circle of Friends of the Arava Institute ("the Clergy Circle"). As a member of the Clergy Circle, I give authority to Friends of the Arava Institute ("FAI") to list my name, congregational affiliation, and geographic location as part of a complete or regional listing of members of the Clergy Circle, as an expression of my support of the mission of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies ("the Arava Institute") and/or FAI. This authority, however, does not extend to using my name as a signatory on a letter on behalf of the Arava Institute or FAI without my specific written consent. I understand that I can remove my name from the Clergy Circle at any time by informing FAI at the contact information listed below.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Congregation: _____

Religious Denomination: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed agreement to Friends of the Arava Institute by mail (FAI, 2041 Herr Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103), fax (717-233-8133), or email (david@friendsofarava.org).