

# Observer

Winter Park / Maitland

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## Students Plant Trees for Peace



**Students from Hebrew Day School, Orangewood Christian School and The Muslim Academy of Central Florida plant trees for peace at Lake Knowles.**

Photo & Story by:  
Carol Arthurs  
Observer Staff

Mayor David Strong opened the ceremony for a special interfaith tree planting by Winter Park and Maitland students. The city of Winter Park and the Olive Trees Foundation for Peace hosted the tree-planting project kick-off ceremony on Monday, May 7 at Lake Knowles in Winter Park. The ceremony, be led by Louise

Franklin Sheehy, director of Olive Trees Foundation for Peace Middle School Project, took place on the northeast side of Lake Knowles and Lake Wilbar.

"Over 55 students representing the Hebrew Day School, Orangewood Christian School, and The Muslim Academy of Central Florida came together to display a spirit of unity as they planted trees for peace," said Sheehy. "This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year we have sponsored this

project," she added.

This unique tree-planting project represents a continuing effort to encourage children to appreciate diversity while building positive relationships with people of other faiths. "The city of Winter Park appreciates the help of these dedicated students and applauds their efforts in working toward peace and gaining respect for diversity," said Mayor Strong.

The city of Winter Park's Forestry Division has

generously donated the 30-gallon shade trees, which will be strategically planted on the banks of Lake Knowles and Lake Wilbar. This project has also been made possible by Keep Winter Park Beautiful's kind donation of gloves and T-shirts.

According to the city, there were 6 varieties of trees planted around the perimeters of Lake Knowles and Lake Wilbar.

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## Tree For Peace

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They included magnolia, live oak, laurel oak, bald cypress, sycamore and red cedar. These trees of peace will both beautify and shade the lake banks and will always be a reminder of the students that joined together on the shores of the lakes to plant trees in the name of peace throughout the world.

**Students of Faith Come Together in the Spirit of Unity to Plant Trees for Peace – Pictured ( l to r) Winter Park City Manager Jim Williams; John Holland, director of Parks & Recreation; Drew Sexton (holding shovel) Hebrew Day School; Mayor David Strong; Ari Miller, Hebrew Day School; Bethany Gingras and Lauren Lu, both from Orangewood Christian School.**

Observer photo by Carole Arthurs