



## Newsletter

### Issue 5, Spring 2019

### Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Projects

[www.sippprojects.org](http://www.sippprojects.org)

#### In This Issue ...

- [Grant For Kidron/Nar Basin Project](#)
- [Update: Environmental Education Center in Idhna](#)
- [November 2018 Trip Report](#)
- [EMIS Presentation](#)
- [Other News](#)
- [Meet Our Board Member: Liz Fox](#)
- [Donations](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Celebrate SIPP 2019

#### Supporting the Environment and Civil Society

with hors d'oeuvres & desserts and brief presentations by Dr. Akram Amro and former US Congressman David Skaggs

**4pm Sunday, April 28**

**West Boulder Senior Center**

Click [here](#) to RSVP and for more information

## Grant for Kidron/Nar Basin Project

SIPP recently awarded its second small grant under our newly formalized grant process to support a study of birds and plants in the Kidron/Nar Basin. Over 500

million birds pass over the Middle East each spring and autumn on their way from Europe to Africa and back again. It is the world's second most important flyway.



The Amuta for Health Education (an organization based in Jerusalem) is working with the [Nature Palestine Society](#) (an organization based in Ramallah) to lay groundwork for developing eco-tourism in and around [Ubeidiya \(southeast of Jerusalem\)](#). The components of this work include conducting a baseline

bird and plant study, developing a bird observation area adjacent to a newly constructed wetland, and creating marked hiking/nature trails. Other partners in this work include scientists from Al Quds university and the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel. At this stage, SIPP is helping to fund the baseline plant and bird study, which will greatly increase the overall understanding of bird and plant species in the area. The study is underway and will conclude at the end of 2019.

## Update: Environmental Education Center in Idhna

Environmentally Sustainable Projects, an initiative of SIPP, awarded a small grant to the Green Land Society for Health and Development (GLSHD) for its Environmental Education Center (EEC) located in Idhna (near Hebron). The EEC was founded and is managed by Dr. Akram Amro to increase environmental education in the West Bank. Dr. Amro, a professor of physiotherapy at Al-Quds University, has been working on environmental education and reducing electronic waste in the West Bank for the past eight years.



Over the course of the first three months of the grant period (the grant runs through April 30, 2019), the EEC held workshops for approximately 300 students from 12 area schools, and had commitments from many of the schools to continue aspects of the workshops back at their schools.

SIPP is inspired by Dr. Amro's work and is bringing him to Colorado this April for an intensive week of meetings with US

environmental professionals. For more information on Dr. Amro's work in the West Bank, see this article in [E-Scrap News](#) (a trade publication).

## November 2018 Trip Report



SIPP President Peter Ornstein and SIPP Secretary Beth Ornstein traveled in Israel and the West Bank/Palestine from November 1 through November 17, 2018. They had numerous meetings with current, past, and potentially future partners including Roots, Cleaning the Hate, Green Land Society for Health Development, Nature Palestine Society, PeaceHeroes, Amuta for Education and Health, Al Afaq School, and AJEEC-NISPED.

As part of the trip, they also attended the First International Conference on Innovations in Conflict Resolution and Mediation (ICRM) at Tel Aviv University where they learned about numerous civil society groups working toward building relationships between Israeli Jews and Palestinians/Arabs and between Israelis on environmental and many other issues. They also visited the Eastern Mediterranean International School prior to the conference and heard a presentation by current students at the conference.

One of the civil society groups they learned about is Science Training Encouraging Peace Graduate Training Program (STEP), a Boston-based organization that funds tuition for graduate-level health science education to pairs of graduate students, each pair comprised of one Israeli and one West Bank Palestinian. Throughout their training, the students work and study at either Hebrew University or Ben Gurion University. The goals of the fellowship are to foster enduring relationships of respect, trust and professional interdependence and to enhance services in the communities where the fellows live and work. We are exploring the possibility of working with STEP to help fund fellows in the field of environmental health. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

## Eastern Mediterranean International School (EMIS) Presentation

---



At the request of EMIS alum Benjamin Strzelecki, SIPP hosted a public presentation by Strzelecki and two other very impressive 2018 graduates of EMIS (<http://em-is.org>) in Boulder, CO, in early December. Strzelecki (Poland), Giang Pham (Vietnam), and Ofek Hod (Israel) spoke about their individual transformative experiences living and learning at EMIS where the student body is comprised of approximately 20% Israelis, 20% Palestinians, and 60% international students. While the focus of the school is on environmental sustainability and peace studies, EMIS adheres to the academically rigorous two year International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, or one year Cambridge IGCSE. The students, who lived and studied together on the school's park-like campus, demonstrated their leadership skills and ability to think about complex, seemingly intractable problems in a sophisticated and nuanced way.

## Other News

### New Website

We redesigned our website to make it easier to see the environmental and civil society projects we are working on, or are thinking about working on. Please check out our new look at [www.sipprojects.org](http://www.sipprojects.org).

### Hello Columbia, Missouri!

In commemoration of Earth Day, SIPP President Peter Ornstein has been invited by the Hillel at the University of Missouri to give a series of presentations about SIPP's work. The presentations will be made both to the student body and the community at large.

### Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP):

SIPP is applying for membership in ALLMEP ([www.allmep.org](http://www.allmep.org)), a membership organization which works with government entities to secure and scale up funding that support and expand trust-building interactions between Palestinians and Israelis. ALLMEP provides capacity-building support and visibility to amplify the voices and impact of its member organizations in the region and connects

individuals and groups to create a critical mass that live and act in support of peace.

## **Meet Our Board Member: Liz Fox**

SIPP is excited to introduce board member, Liz Fox. She is a founding member of SIPP and currently serves on the executive committee, as well as the board. Liz believes in SIPP's mission to support projects that engage Israeli and Palestinian communities working to further common environmental and other interests.



She has been committed to working for peace in the Middle East for all of her adult life. She has served for more than twenty years in a leadership role on the National Board of Hadassah, and has visited Israel more than a dozen times.

Liz recently published a book, *WE ARE GOING TO BE LUCKY. - A WWII Love Story in Letters* based on correspondence between her parents during World War II. The book follows Liz's dad from basic training to the war in Europe, and through his recovery from wounds and her mom's experience on the home front working as a machinist and becoming a new mom. She is also a retired Boulder Valley School teacher, who served on many district education committees. A resident of Boulder for forty-five years, she has contributed to building the Jewish community. For her, SIPP is a continuation of her commitment and involvement.

## **Donations**

SIPP accomplishes its work through the volunteer efforts of its board members and others, and also by raising funds for projects of our regional partners. We work hard to minimize our expenses and ensure accountability of grantees and donees. But, we need more funds to be more effective. Please consider making a donation today. If you are unable to make a monetary donation, please consider donating

airline miles as we can use them to bring people such as Dr. Amro to the United States or send American experts to the region.

[Donate to SIPP!](#)

To learn about donating miles, contact us at [info@sipprojects.org](mailto:info@sipprojects.org)

---