



## Newsletter Issue 3, Spring 2018

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## Upcoming Events

### Beyond Borders: Environmental Cooperation in Israel and Palestine

Friends of the Arava Institute

Monday, February 26, 7pm - 8:30pm

United First Methodist Church, 1421 Spruce St, Boulder, CO

In the Parlor Room

[Click here for more information](#)

### SIPP Community Update

SIPPs recent visit to Israel and the West Bank

Tuesday, April 10, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Boulder JCC, 6007 Oreg Ave, Boulder, CO

In Levin Hall

## Project Updates - SIPP Trip January 2018

In early January of this year, SIPP's Peter Ornstein and Bernard Amadei joined archeologist and Israeli Abraham Path coordinator Avner Goren to visit various

Bank. During their week-long stay in the region, they checked on the electronic waste project SIPP has been involved with in the West Bank near Hebron, and spent several days in the Kidron/Nar basin (Jerusalem area) working on waste



and water pollution. Peter and Bernard also made additional connections with an Israeli-Arab school in Nazareth, with Engineers Without Borders – Israel, and with people working in/with some of the Bedouin communities in the Negev.

The work in the Kidron/Nar Basin was a focus of the trip and included meetings with the monks at the Mar Saba Monastery and a half-day hike in the wadis adjacent to the monastery in order to better understand how some of the monastery's drinking water cisterns were getting polluted. After the trip, SIPP made recommendations to the monastery to help protect its drinking water sources.



SIPP board member Tara Winer joined Peter, Bernard and Avner later in the trip to visit the environmental education center that the Green Land Society



(GLS) is establishing in Idhna, near Hebron, and to explore potential partnering opportunities at Wadi Attir and elsewhere in the Negev. SIPP has been working with the GLS for two years, and provided electronic waste awareness training in Idhna in 2016.

Peter and Bernard also met a potential candidate for a “Visiting Engineer” from Al Ubeidiya in the West Bank to Boulder. The

Visiting Engineer would learn about U.S. and international waste management practices and how to work with a local community and its schools to implement a recycling program. If successful, such a program could have a significant

Having met with Israelis, Palestinians, Israeli-Arabs, Bedouins, Jews, Muslims and Christians who were interested in working toward a cleaner environment and healthier future, it was evident that strengthening people-to-people relationships across all political and religious divisions is vitally important for the advancement of environmental sustainability in the region.



For more information on our recent trip to Israel and the West Bank, please see [our trip report](#) on our [website](#). You can also attend our upcoming (April 10, 2018, 7pm) Community Update at the Boulder JCC, and learn even more!

## Meet Our Board Members: Tara Winer

Tara Winer is Vice President of SIPP. As a marketing specialist, she brings a forthright and genial voice to the SIPP Board. During a 2015 trip to Israel, Tara was appalled by the amount of litter on the streets of Tel Aviv, along the country's roadsides, and in the streets and alleyways of Jerusalem. She



wondered how such a historic and religiously significant region could be beset by so many environmental problems. When she returned to the US, she learned about SIPP, and was excited to join the SIPP board and make an impact.

Tara is energized by SIPP's work and support to promote safer and more effective waste management in some of the very same areas she previously visited.

On her recent trip to the region, Tara visited a new environmental education center in Idhna and was dismayed to learn that many of the town's workers,

education center where committed men and woman were working to make a difference for the benefit of the entire community. Using such innovative ideas as making furniture with recycled plastic and tires and by offering summer camps, workshops, and the distribution of gloves and masks, she was excited that they are working to change the culture of Idhna to one of environmental awareness while balancing the economic needs of the community.

As a SIPP board member, Tara Winer admires the science, engineering, and legal backgrounds brought to SIPP by other board members, and she is thrilled to work with SIPP in promoting a healthy, trashless environment in the Middle East.

## Meet Our CU Intern: Marianna Marquardt

### Spring 2018 Intern

Marianna Marquardt came to SIPP through the University of Colorado - Boulder's Jewish Studies Program, which was a catalyst in connecting her to an organization that involved Israeli-Palestinian cooperation and a movement



for helping others. She joined SIPP because of its mission to bond diverse peoples over a universal cause of cleaning up the environment – an idea she thinks could benefit not only specific communities but the whole world.

Marianna is a sophomore at CU Boulder, studying linguistics and history. She is very excited to work with SIPP in compiling newsletters, researching grant opportunities, and creating multi-media productions with film and photo. She plans on studying abroad at Hebrew University in Jerusalem next year.

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