



Newsletter

Issue 6, Fall 2019

Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Projects

www.sipprojects.org

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Save The Dates!

Thursday, November 14, 5pm - 8pm

Dine at [Modmarket](#) in Boulder on 29th Street to support SIPP
Mention SIPP and half of your tab will go to SIPP

Sunday December 8, 4pm - 6pm

Celebrate SIPP

Join Us For Our Year-End Party

Special Guest Archaeologist Dr. David Ilan, Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem, will speak briefly about his work with Jewish and Arab teens conducting excavations at Tel Dan
Details will be provided soon!

Message from the Board

With your support SIPP is providing expertise, connections, and financial support to projects that benefit Israelis and Palestinians. We are very

excited to let you know that SIPP has received a grant from the U.S. Embassy in partnership with Israelis and Palestinians! In this issue you can read about Dr. Abdulrahman's April trip to Colorado, the April Celebrate SIPP 2019 Event, and our current projects. Please contact us with any questions and/or to learn how you can help.

L'Shanah Tovah for those of you celebrating 5780!

Celebrate SIPP 2019 Event

Thanks to the many of you who were able to attend our amazing Celebrate SIPP 2019 Event on April 28, 2019 in conjunction with Dr. Abdulrahman's trip to Colorado (See article below). Dr. Abdulrahman's, founder of the Green Land Society for Health and Development (GLSHD) inspired us with his optimistic views of what can be accomplished as he spoke about the GLSHD's Environmental Education Center and his other work, including his volunteer work with Project [Rozana](#). Former 2nd



Congressional District Representative David Skaggs spoke about the importance of listening to and speaking with the other using examples from his experience promoting civil, bipartisan cooperation.

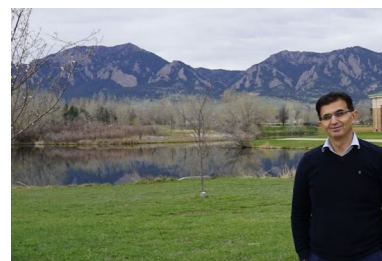


SIPP President Peter Ornstein spoke about our existing and potential partners including Science Training Encouraging Peace (STEP) Graduate Training Program (See article below). SIPP Board Member Professor Bernard Amadei challenged us to understand that **peace is a verb**. Peace is not a static concept. It should move us to action to support efforts that make a

difference, like those of GLSDH's Environmental Education Center.

Dr. Abdulrahman's Visit to Colorado

As part of our effort to strengthen environmental education in Israel and Palestine, SIPP brought Dr. Abdulrahman to Boulder in late April 2019 to learn about educational methods and recycling in Boulder and along the Colorado Front Range, and to make connections and form partnerships to further GLSHD's educational work and improve methods of recycling. SIPP Board members and others



were grateful to have this opportunity to get to know Dr. Abdulrahman on a deeper level.



Dr. Abdulrahman spent a jam-packed ten days observing and touring a number of facilities, environmental educational organizations, and actual teaching environments including the Calwood outdoor educational facility, several public elementary school classes taught by Eco-Cycle, the Thorne Environmental Education

Center, the Boulder JCC's Milk and Honey Farm, Blue Star Recyclers, R2Disassembly, Garbage Garage, and Techno Rescue. Additionally, he met with Rotary Club members, observed a major e-waste collection event in Denver, and attended an Eco-Cycle Symposium on waste reduction in schools.

Dr. Abdulrahman has let us know he was very excited by the trip. He writes:

“The visit to Colorado was a great opportunity and eye-opener in aspects of managing and developing environmental education centers and in the teaching of extracurricular environmental education.



It inspired me to ... enhance the value of students visits to our Environmental Education Center in Idhna, through enriching it with 'environmental corners' [exhibits] that tackle different environmental challenges, and wide spectrum of environmental topics that would be very educational for our school's students visiting the center.



The way of teaching an environmental topic in schools was very amazing, and made me come back with a dedication to developing national relevant extracurricular environmental modules,

that can be used in environmental outreach in schools. That would widen our students' environmental knowledge and help in building in environmental consciousness in our next generation mind.

And on top of that, this visit has opened the gate towards developing new professional and personal links, that will enable us to build an international network, that can play a role in fundraising, consultation, and a backup in our mission of improving the health and environmental status in the south West Bank.”



SIPP is Co-Recipient of U.S. Embassy Grant

In June, the US Embassy approved a grant application submitted by [AJEEC-NISPED](#) in conjunction with The Green Land Society for Health Development (the Palestinian NGO directed by Dr. Abdulrahman) and SIPP. The three organizations will work together to provide three two-day trainings for 12 university students, including four Israeli Jewish students, four Israeli Bedouin students, and four West-Bank Palestinian, who will serve as eco-tourism guides and/or presenters in high schools.

The trainings will be offered in Area C (which is the area in the West Bank under both Israeli security and civil control). The first training will focus on introducing participants and the third on conducting presentations to students and visitors. SIPP will provide the second training with one American trainer with scientific background to discuss how ecosystems and environmental challenges cross politically-created borders, in this case the Green Line, and one American trainer to teach the participants how to lead and engage in conversations about contested narratives.



New Partnership with STEP

Science Training Encouraging Peace Graduate Training Program (STEP)(step-gtp.org) is a Boston-based organization that funds half the tuition for graduate-level health science education for



pairs of graduate students, each pair comprised of one Israeli and one West Bank Palestinian. 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.

STEP, in partnership with SIPP, is providing half the tuition, and Ben Gurion University is matching the other half, to fund one year of tuition for a new pair of students. The students are developing model water treatment systems for the Wadi Attir Visitor Center (<http://www.sustainabilitylabs.org/wadiattir/home/>) in the northern Negev near Be'er Sheva, and will be using sanitary waste from the Visitor Center in their research. .

The Palestinian student will focus on optimizing operation of the treatment of human waste through the use of tiered constructed wetlands (also referred to as vertical subsurface flow constructed wetlands) in a warm desert

environment. She will assess overall performance of the constructed wetlands and identify ways to reduce greenhouse gas generation and water loss through evapotranspiration.



The Israeli student will focus on treatment of human waste through hydrothermic carbonization (HTC). HTC subjects the waste to both heat and pressure and results in both solid and liquid phases that have potential energy and agricultural uses. She will evaluate the characteristics of these materials and assess their potential uses.

SIPP will keep you posted as we receive regular updates about the pair and, hopefully, meet them in early 2020. We will be reaching out to our supporters to help raise funds for their tuition for future year(s).

New Partnership with Rotary

During Dr. Abdulrahman's visit to Boulder, we forged a partnership with the Boulder Rotary Club to further develop environmental education in the West Bank focusing on health and safety aspects of managing electronic waste (e-waste). This is



part of a larger project where the Boulder Rotary Club, working with the Jerusalem Rotary Club, will help the Green Land Society procure equipment that will provide a local and economical alternative to open burning of electronic waste. The Boulder Rotary Club hopes to expand this effort and establish a computer recycling center in the West Bank, modeled on Boulder and Denver area electronic waste recycling businesses that employ autism-spectrum adults. The overall issue of electronic waste processing in the West Bank was recently highlighted in a New York Times op-ed piece ([linked here](#)).

Kidron/Nar Basin Bird and Plant Study

SIPP has received our first report from Nature Palestine Society and the Amuta for Education and Health in Israel. With the assistance of a grant from SIPP, these two groups are surveying bird populations in the Kidron Nar Basin, just east of Jerusalem. Both Israeli and Palestinian ornithologists are involved in this effort. The larger project will include a constructed wetlands along with a bird blind/observation area, as well as marked nature trails. The bird and plant

study will add to the overall knowledge of wildlife in the area and produce a guide for local communities.

The first part of the study included 15 days of bird observation and cataloging. The team recorded 114 species of birds. Forty-one species are considered either resident breeders or summer visitor breeders. A total of 23 migrations of the soaring birds were recorded during the autumn and spring migration seasons. The most significant recorded numbers were for White Stork where the team observed a total of 12,000 birds during the ten days of monitoring. The highest number of White Storks passing over the area was about 7,000 individuals in two large flocks.

Each year over **500** million birds migrate through/over Israel and Palestine between their breeding grounds in Eurasia and Africa. This area also serves as an important wintering ground for many species of birds and a breeding ground for more than **220 resident and summer visitor breeders**. In the West Bank, more than **130** bird species are expected to be breeding, of both group's resident and summer breeders.

Stay tuned for updates on the study.

GLSHD Environmental Education Center

SIPP has extended its grant to the Green Land Society for Health and Development (GLSHD) for its Environmental Education Center (EEC) in Idhna. Dr.

Abdulrahman founded the Green Land Society for Health and Development (GLSHD) in 2007 in part to increase environmental awareness in the West Bank. The EEC teaches the basic principles of minimizing waste and reducing consumption



through games and hands-on projects. The goal is to empower students from the elementary grades through university to play an active role in environmental protection and to become environmental ambassadors at their schools and in their communities. The EEC has supported workshops for over 600 students



from 12 area schools with commitments from many of the schools to continue aspects of the workshops in their schools. The EEC also advises local communities on the safest and most environmentally friendly ways to handle waste, especially electronic waste. This additional grant will allow the EEC to improve its educational materials and displays in ways inspired by Dr.

Abdulrahman's visit to Colorado, and it will help subsidize staffing expenses.

ALLMEP

SIPP has joined the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP, www.allmep.org) which is an umbrella organization for organizations that focus on trust-building in the region.



Alliance for Middle East Peace
100+ ORGANIZATIONS. ONE GROWING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE.

ALLMEP advocates for its collective membership with government institutions and provides members with capacity-building support. More information about ALLMEP and its member organizations can be found [here](#).

Meet Our Board Member: Beth Ornstein



Beth Ornstein is a dispute resolution professional and founder of Colorado Mediation Center, LLC. As a founding member of SIPP, she has served as SIPP's Secretary since its inception. During her trips to Israel/Palestine in 2015 and 2018, Beth has been thrilled to have the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with many of SIPP's existing and potential partners.

Beth believes SIPP serves an important role in supporting civil society efforts to bridge the divide between Israeli and Palestinian populations. As a mediator, she recognizes the value of focusing on common cross-boundary interests such as clean water and air and working with both populations to identify specific actions to address those interests.

In addition to her dispute resolution work and work with SIPP, Beth enjoys playing flute (and some piccolo) with the Boulder Concert Band and other local ensembles.

Donations

Peace is a verb. 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. Help us by 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. Abdulrahman to the United States or send American experts to the region.

Donate to SIPP!

To learn about donating miles, contact us at info@sippprojects.org
