



Collaboration Using Teletandem and Study Abroad

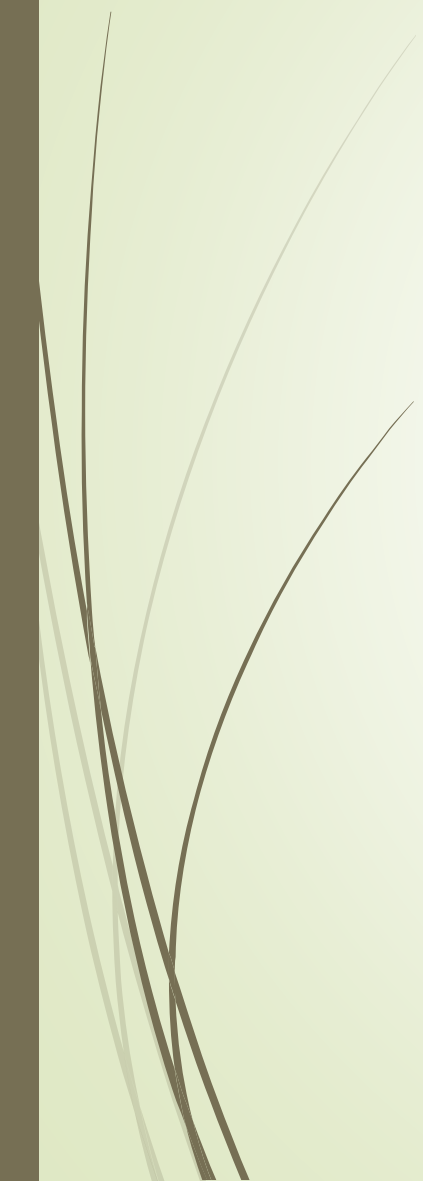
Michelle Freas, MA

Steven Kalishman, JD





How Did Collaboration Begin?

- Qalqilya, Palestine and the Build a Deaf School Project
 - Study Abroad-Sweden (Upper Secondary School for the Deaf)
 - Teletandem Opportunity with Sao Paulo University, Brazil
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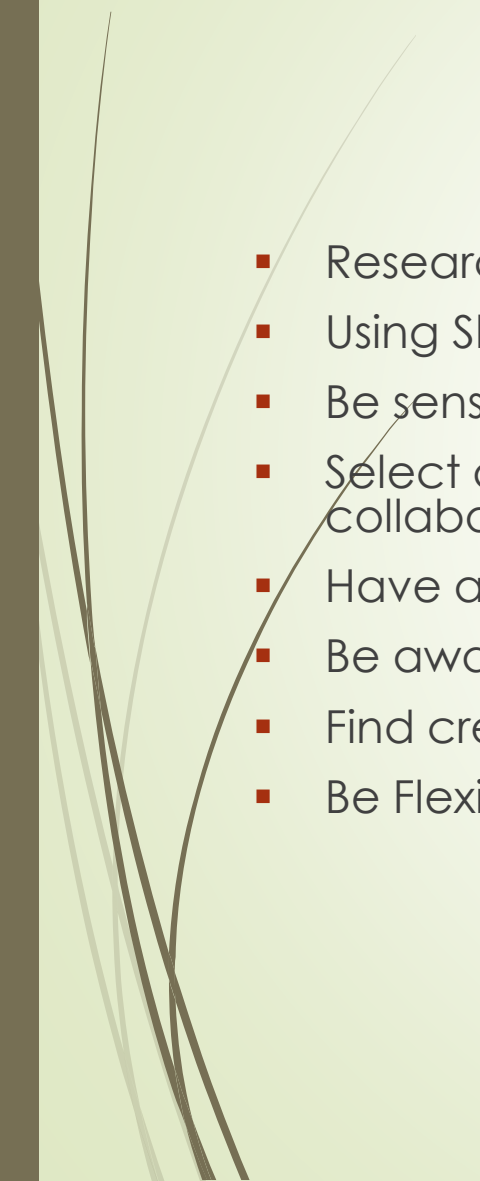


Student Involvement and Collaboration

- Participation in Skype sessions with target country
- Class Projects using information gathered from Skype sessions
- <https://vimeo.com/107840359>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JeUd5_NP9Q&list=PLKaDnmLfGTbk6eWrBqOYF-hgzlle3bAds
- Study Abroad Opportunities



Where Do I Start?

- Research global opportunities at your institution
 - Using Skype, ZOOM, or FaceTime
 - Be sensitive to time differences
 - Select a group of students or class optimal for beginning collaboration
 - Have a Plan for the selected students or class
 - Be aware of language and cultural differences
 - Find creative ways to bridge communication barriers
 - Be Flexible!
- 



BUILD A DEAF SCHOOL

Qalqilya, Palestine

Gainesville

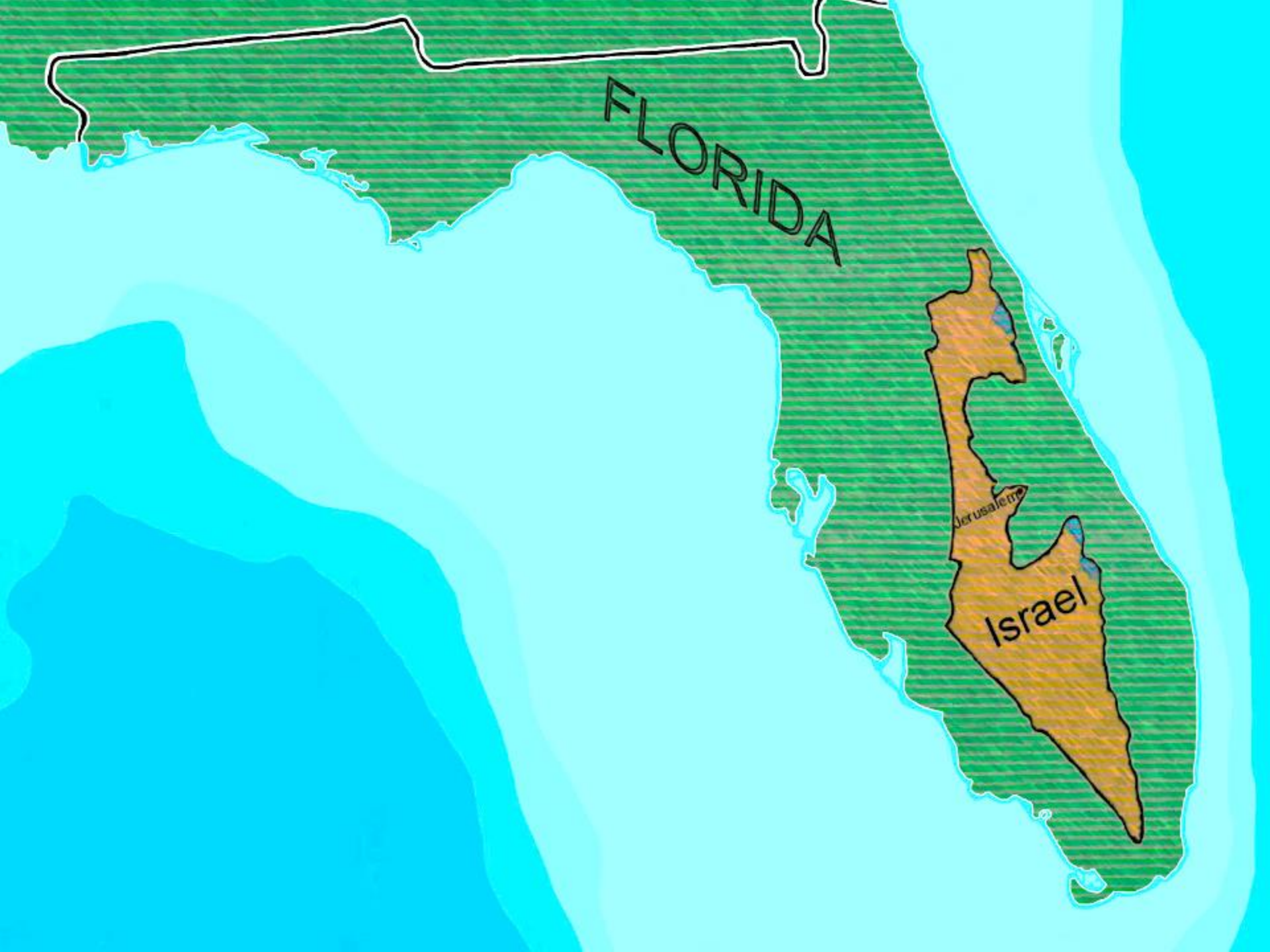


Sister Cities: Israel and Palestine

Israel and Neighboring States







FLORIDA

Jerusalem

Israel

Qalqilyah Surrounded 7 June 2003











Kfar Saba and Qalqilya delegates with Gainesville Mayor Paula Delaney in July, 2000.













**Leading our
2012 delegation:**

**Mayor
Craig Lowe**



**City
Commissioner
Randy Wells**

جمعية الأمل الخيرية للصم



دولة فلسطين
وزارة الحكم المحلي
بلدية قلقيلية
بلدية قلقيلية ترحب بالجميع في
احتفال توقيع اتفاقية تخصيص قطعة أرض لجمعية الأمل للصم والكم
لإنشاء أول مدرسة ثانوية للصم في فلسطين





Last year we welcomed delegates from Gainesville's Sister City, Kfar Saba, Israel....



This year we welcomed a delegation from our mutual Sister City, Qalqilya, Palestine.

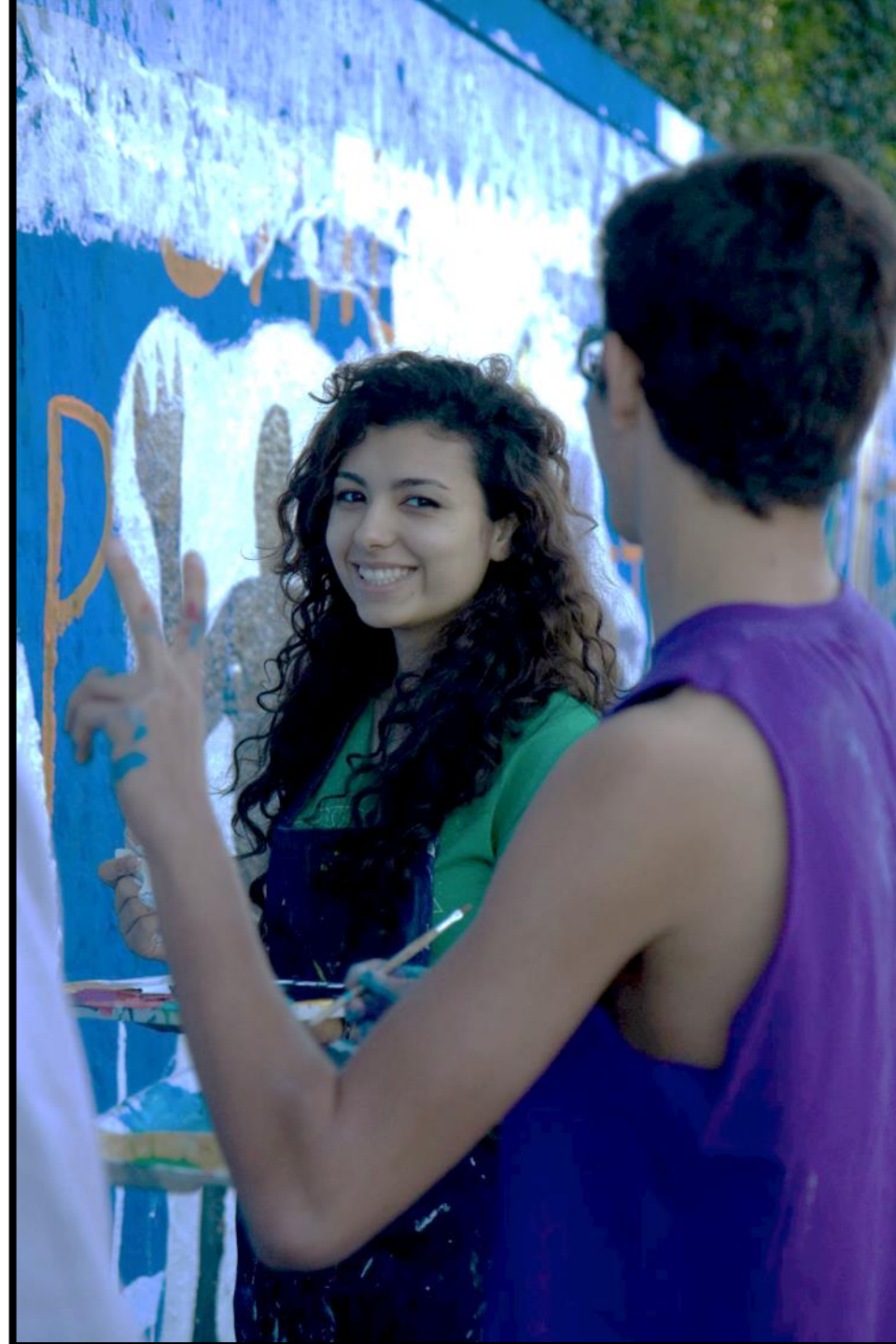




A good conversation in Mr. Nelson's World History class



34th Street Wall Peace Mural





Build A Deaf School

DONATIONS SO FAR: **\$1,486**

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EDUCATION

There are about 43,000 Deaf people in Palestine suffering from a lack of adequate opportunities for primary and higher education, and the government has no plan for



EVENTS

Events are a great way to get together and help out the cause. From Duct-Tape fundraisers to music concerts, our events are a part



THE PROJECT

While \$700,000 has been raised so far to renovate the current school for the deaf in Qalqilya, an additional \$350,000 (US Dollars) is needed to the expand the present



SISTER CITIES PROGRAM OF GAINESVILLE

We have had active relationships with Novorossiisk, Russia, since 1982, with Duhok, Iraq, since 2006, a three-way relationship with





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Oak Hall School Brings Hope to Deaf Palestinian Students

Allison Durham | April 21, 2014 | [Reply](#)

In Palestine, where basic services can be denied to any resident, the future for deaf students is particularly bleak. Add a wall, check points and the confiscation of land and homes, and the chance for advancement all but disappears.

Gainesville is a sister city of one such place: Qalqilia, Palestine, where education for deaf students ends at the eighth grade and offers no chance for advancement to college — hopes and dreams are consistently dashed, and their lives focus solely on survival.

But change for the deaf in Palestine did come when delegations from Qalqilia and Gainesville met through the Sister City Program of Gainesville after Cynthia DuPont, an American sign language teacher at Oak Hall School, heard an account of the situation for deaf students in Palestine.

"I learned that there was no 10th, 11th or 12th grade there for any student who was deaf. Never in the history of Palestine had a deaf child graduated from high school," DuPont said.

A year later, DuPont had an academic advising session with Tripp Lentz and Jacob Goldberger, both 16, and talked about the challenges facing kids in Palestine who cannot hear or get an education. The trio decided they wanted to help.

In an effort to raise money, they built a web site and used social media to raise awareness for their cause. An existing school for the deaf in Palestine needed \$150,000 to add a high school education program, but Tripp and Goldberger's plan exceeded expectations when the Welfare and Education Ministries in Palestine learned of Gainesville's desire to help and offered \$700,000 to build a high school for all deaf Palestinian students.

"Ms. DuPont talked about this place, and at first we didn't think there was much of a need, but then we saw the

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Gainesville-Qalqilya Partnership Opens Door to Educational Opportunities for Deaf Students



Students participating in drumming lessons (Deaf students could feel the music)

05/07/2014

The Gainesville, Florida and Qalqilya, Palestinian Territories sister city partnership recently made a unique youth exchange possible. In early April, two Deaf students, five hearing students, the headmaster of the Deaf School, and a Deaf teacher from Qalqilya visited Oak Hall School in Gainesville, Florida. Although delegations have traveled back and forth between the two sister cities several times in the past, this was the first educational youth exchange of its kind.



Students and teachers pose in front of the peace mural they painted

In preparation for the Qalqilya delegation's visit to Gainesville, Oak Hall's American Sign Language teacher, Cynthia DuPont, organized regular Skype calls to communicate with the visiting Deaf students and teacher. Once the delegation arrived, the students participated in a number of engaging activities and events and stayed with homestay families. Some highlights included painting a mural on the 1,120-foot-long 34th Street graffiti wall, performing together in an interactive musical event, taking a trip to Disney World, visiting the Atlantic Ocean (most had never seen the sea before), and taking a tour of the Santa Fe School of the Deaf.



Visiting Disney World!

The homestay experience helped both the Palestinian students and their American counterparts get a true glimpse into one another's daily lives. Homestay parent, LaDonna Vieweg, reflected on what she learned from the experience, "It was a pleasure hosting Saleh and Hussam in our home. Despite growing up a world away, I was amazed to discover how similar they are to my own teenage boys in so many ways." While in classes at Oak Hall, it was a bit of challenge for the students to communicate at first, since Arabic and American Sign Language were different. The students were able to communicate with

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What's going on

Jun 09 Fortworth Sister Cities: Swaziland Service Adventure

Jun 19 Phoenix Sister Cities: Global Links Business Outlook Luncheon

Jun 26 Englishville Sister Cities



Build A Deaf School

\$700,000 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FACILITY IS PROMISED SO FAR!
HELP US MEET OUR REMAINING GOAL OF \$350,000 BY JANUARY 15, 2015

DONATIONS SO FAR: **\$6,211**

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Cynthia DuPont give the delegation a tour of Oak Hall

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BUILD A DEAF SCHOOL

Qalqilya, Palestine