



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Peace and Justice in the Holy Land      **Name:** Jeanne Boland  
**Other Team Members:**  
**Program:** EL Education Program  
**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001      **Location Visited:** Palestine / Israel  
**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 01

**Project Summary:** Historical Palestine is a land steeped with culture and conflict, religious foundations and political tensions. It is the promised land of Israel for the Jews and the generational inheritance for the Palestinians. While Jews, Muslims, and Christians once lived in harmony among its varied landscapes, the region has been torn apart by conflicting narratives that have reaped bloodshed and tears, compromise and reconciliation. Investigating these topics with my students in my humanities class unleashed a passion within me to experience the individual people and places that made up this history and its current struggles. By traveling to the Middle East, the information and issues we had researched, discussed, and grappled with in class came alive and became steeped with new significance, perspective, and understanding. I experienced the constraints of life under occupation first hand, whether by waiting in long lines at checkpoints where we had to show identification to be allowed passage or were denied entry to a area under Israeli control. I met courageous, thoughtful, committed individuals -- Israelis, Palestinians, and internationals alike -- who, through their work with peace and justice organizations, strive to understand the complexities of the issues while working to ensure the preservation of human rights and an end to the occupation. The values I teach in my classroom on a daily basis -- treating others with compassion, dignity, and respect while learning from and with them -- were tested and promoted in countless ways this summer. Although I have returned home, I carry pieces of historical Palestine with me every day, as its people and places have etched their sorrows and celebrations upon my heart.

**Career Impact:** \* Increased awareness of Palestinian and Israeli culture through immersion and exposure  
\* Experienced the breadth of historical significance of place in three major world religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity  
\* Gained new perspective of life under occupation in the Palestinian territories  
\* Learned about specific work efforts and issues faced by Israeli and Palestinian peace and justice organizations

**Classroom/Community Impact:**\* Furthered my approach to teaching multiple perspectives in the classroom  
\* Provided firsthand, world experience -- I now have personal stories to interject in my expedition curriculum  
\* Gained new understanding of the "sacredness of place" by visiting historical sites throughout the Holy Land  
\* Gathered new information and resources with which I can revise semester-long Humanities expeditions (see below)  
\* Established connections with peace and justice organizations for future research and possible service learning opportunities

**Open Response:** \* Photo essay on "Life Under Occupation"  
\* Documentation panels on a teacher's experiential pursuit of her passion  
\* Blog of experiences during the fellowship (completed) and continued reflections now that I have returned to my culture and personal responsibilities (future project)  
\* Revised curriculum -- semester long expedition on the Holocaust  
\* Revised curriculum -- semester long expedition on the Israeli / Palestinian conflict

**Quote:** "In understanding, all walls shall fall down." -- Khalil Gibran, poet & pacifist

Photos:



Dome of the Rock



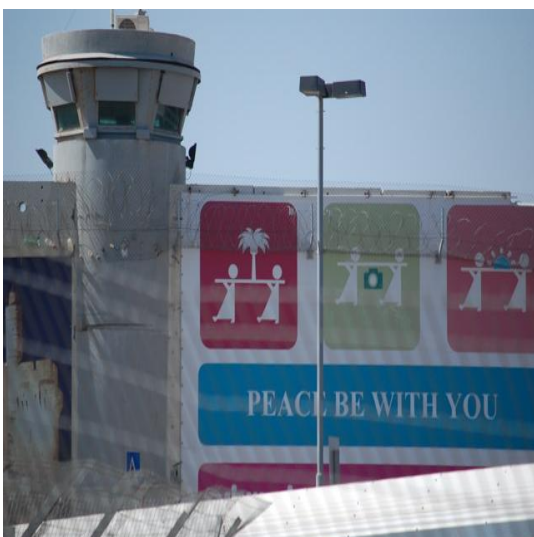
Bar Mitzvah at the Western Wall



Mortal Danger -- The realities of separation



Checkpoints and Closures



Barriers to Peace



Hope for Progress



Church of the Beatitudes



Student Fieldwork Fall 2008