



<http://www.creativityforpeace.com>

During March, 2010, three young Holy Land women participants from *Creativity for Peace* summer leadership-training program based in New Mexico modeled successful relationships and spoke of their lives of change for citizens around Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

West Bank Palestinian **Amira Said**, Jewish Israeli **May Freed**, and Palestinian Israeli **Fairuz Abadi** are five-year participants and leaders in *Creativity for Peace*. They informed and inspired others with personal narratives about their personal lives, their hardships and triumphs, their ongoing work to help others engage successfully.

The three young women of excellent were invited to the United States by *WomenSpeak*, an international women's empowerment conference in Mobile, Alabama. For three days before the conference -- <http://www.womenspeak2010.com/> -- they visited two universities, two high schools, and a church in the Philadelphia area.

Parkway High School for Peace and Social Justice

The young women leaders met with about 20 African American girls in Rachel King-Davis' class. While these students knew little or nothing about the Israeli-Palestinian relationship, they were interested in meeting the young leaders, and the message of enemies-becoming-friends hit home. The travelers learned a great deal about the lives of inner-city American girls.



Arcadia University

The Middle East women engaged a group mostly comprised of undergraduate and graduate students in the peace and conflict resolution program. This audience was quite knowledgeable about the Israeli-Palestinian relationship and familiar with the general practices of *Creativity for Peace*. They asked thoughtful and probing questions and stayed afterwards to trade Facebook information with the guests. Amira, May, and Fairuz were impressed by the students and campus, and intrigued by the idea of obtaining a masters degree in peace.

Alvernia University, Jewish Federation, and the Islamic Center of Reading

In Reading, Pennsylvania, the youth-leaders were treated like royalty by the Jewish Federation; the Holleran Center for Community Engagement at Alvernia University, a Catholic institution; the Islamic Center; and the conference of churches, who teamed together to host the gathering. The guest presenters were invited to a private dinner with the president of the university, followed by a public talk attended by approximately 200 students and members of the public.



Bristol High School

Students at Bristol High School shared their artwork inspired by studies of the Israeli-Palestinian challenge – artwork that very much resembled the creations of *Creativity for Peace* campers. Students read from their peace journals and asked the visiting young women penetrating questions about their lives back home.



Yardley United Methodist Church

This public event, hosted by an interfaith coalition for peace in the Middle East, was especially memorable for the panel of local young people who moderated the talk. These youth asked questions of the young leaders and shared their own experiences of religious discrimination.



For more information:

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