



All the world  
is a narrow  
bridge...  
but the  
main thing  
is not to  
fear.

Reb Nachman  
of Bratslav

## Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund Annual Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Each year in writing this Annual Newsletter it is simply impossible to tell you about the dozens of grantees who have benefitted from your ongoing generosity, enabling them to pursue social justice projects across the world.

Please note that we are in the process of updating the website so you can read grantees' full stories and truly understand the impact of the Fund on their collective experience—validating the investment we have made in their skills, energy, and precious time in order to make a better world for so many others.

Once again we are struck by our grantees' optimism, but this year we are equally amazed by their pragmatism. Grantees tutor, train, encourage, and develop meaningful relationships. But they also understand that the success of the programs of their host organizations often requires spending time, perhaps in an office, where they research potential grant opportunities, draft grant proposals, collect data and review literature, create websites, design training programs and conferences, build workshops, and more.

Naomi B. noted, "While it is great to be the person holding the sign at the rally, sometimes it is also necessary to learn to be the person who can write the proposal to create legislative and official change, a factor that will ultimately impact more people."

We've squeezed to highlight just 11 of our grantees into the following three pages, sharing their dreams and work in Latin America, Africa, Israel, and the U.S. Join us in honoring their work (and the 40 other grantees) by continuing to support the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund as generously as you are able. Each dollar you donate is tax deductible and 100% goes directly to support grantees. ALL expenses are covered by the Schulman Family. Thank you for all you do to promote justice and human dignity, and a better tomorrow.

Health, strength, a sweet, full, and fulfilling New Year to you and your family.  
Ruth (and Mel z"l) Dan and Jennie, Molly, Jake Joel and Nancy, Logan



**NEWS BULLETIN:** Daniel Seidemann's lecture, postponed by last February's blizzard, has been rescheduled as promised.

The 26th Annual Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Lecture  
**Getting Real About Jerusalem**

Sunday, December 7 at 7:30 pm | The Jewish Center, Princeton, NJ



*"After college I look forward to the possibility*

*of joining the Peace Corps where my strengths and interests would be challenged. I feel a personal responsibility to help those less fortunate than myself, and responsibility takes more than money: it requires time and energy. I hope to eventually pursue a career involving people, helping them to understand themselves and their particular biological, economic, and cultural influences. I also hope to get married and raise a family. I would like my children to understand themselves and their personal importance, to be concerned individuals continuing to try to make the world a better place for all."*

From a recently discovered essay written by Amy Adina the year before she died.

...seeking to aid those in direst need – such as refugees.

**Iosif S.** volunteered as an International Legal Intern for the *Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS)* in *Israel*. Originally from Baku, Azerbaijan, Iosif's family immigrated to the U.S. with help from HIAS when he was two years old. "I am also a refugee," he writes, "having come to the U.S. under the Lautenberg Amendment in 1991. I have first-hand experience with the challenges that refugees face in coming to a new country, learning a new language, and adapting to a new culture." HIAS Israel supports efforts to establish a fair refugee status determination process for non-Jewish African asylum seekers in Israel. "These refugees deserve respect and the protection of law," Iosef points out, "and my specific project was to conduct research on the country of origin and legal matters so I could draft legal memoranda, opinions, and amicus briefs to support a fair status detention system." (On 9/22/14 Israel's High Court cancelled the government's policy of refugee incarceration without a trial.)

...focusing on social justice through economic development and empowerment.

**Kim G.** volunteered with *Blue Sparrow*, an NGO based in *Huancayo, Peru*, that promotes education, small business development, and agricultural training and resources to rural farmers. Drawing on her systems engineering background, Kim and her team of four other Penn students interested in social entrepreneurship received a sustainable microfinance grant of \$10,000 for small business owners in Huancayo, Peru. Their funding was allocated exclusively as seed capital for microloans—and not to cover travel or living expenses. As Kim writes: "My teammates and I were thrilled to make three loans: 2500 *soles* to Anais for her new juice business; 200 *soles* to Marivel to improve and add stock to her guinea pig farm; and a transfer of 10,000 *soles* to Saul who had a long-running shoe business," for which Kim conducted a broad array of research to support a microloan of this size.

**Ellie Z.'s** project was in *Uganda* and *Rwanda* with *Spark MicroGrants*, a program that enables some of the poorest villages in East Africa to define and drive their own development. "I have a B.A. in Political Economics from Barnard College with a particular focus on human-capital development, looking at how small grants can influence positive behaviors in health care, education, and income. With Spark, I will be launching and piloting their first gender-empowerment program to make sure women's voices are present, heard, and valued at community meetings." She adds, "To empower more women Spark is expanding the trainings into a year-long initiative reaching 60 partner communities and by the end of the pilot, I will have trained their 18 field facilitators to take over the gender-empowerment exercises I have designed."

**Cole S.** interned with the *U.N. Development Program* in *Pasto, Colombia*. "Grant-funding organizations such as the Amy Adina Fund continue to be the lifeblood for talented young graduates to obtain essential skills and experience in the field regardless of socio-economic status." With a B.A. from the University of British Columbia, and an M.Sc. in Development Studies from the London School of Economics, Cole worked as a Junior Professional Consultant to the Program *Creciendo Juntos* (Growing Together), a program that seeks to provide legal alternatives to young people in nine of the most conflict-ridden municipalities in Colombia, where recruitment of children by the FARC and other illegal armed groups is commonplace. "My position has encompassed the monitoring and evaluation of the leadership and human rights workshops in youth, gender, and reproductive rights, all designed to break the cycle of family violence and create a more protective environment in these municipalities."



Ellie Z. with trainees from Spark Micro Grants

...showing a strong commitment to social justice in Israel.

**H**asan B. is one of two volunteers in the MASA program, *Achvat Aminim*, (Solidarity of Peoples) including the *Yad b'Yad* (Hand in Hand) *School in East Jerusalem*. Son of a Jewish mother and Muslim father, Hasan is devoting "5 months to exploring the immense complexity of social justice and intra and international conflict issues affecting all people of all identities, backgrounds, and cultures living in Israel and the Palestinian territories through on the ground work: a service project at Hand in Hand, a bilingual interfaith Israeli/Palestinian school; projects with organizations that conduct on the ground social service work for disadvantaged populations; living in a pluralistic Jewish community that embraces an openness to each other's viewpoints, background, lifestyles." Looking back on the time he served as Director/Facilitator of his synagogue's Dialogue Group which discussed contentious issues involving Israel, Hasan wrote, "The experiences I had directing this project taught me many lessons. Though I did many things right, I also have much room to improve. It helped me put my skills of conflict resolution between emotionally charged participants to the test. I bring these skills to the programs and activities I run at Hand in Hand, and they will continue my own imperfect journey in resolving conflicts between people."

**N**atasha W. wrote, "Forty students and interns from Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and overseas arrived at *Kibbutz Ketura* in October 2013, where I began my work at the *Arava Institute for Environmental Studies' Center for Transboundary Water Management*. I was soon deep in a USAID-funded project to mitigate transboundary wastewater conflicts. The project was structured around the development and implementation of pilot greywater treatment and reuse systems, providing homes in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, and Israel, which were not connected to a stable water supply or sewage system, to treat used greywater and reuse it for irrigation. While I was once desperate to understand the inherent interdependency of development, conflict resolution, and equitable resource management, I was now living it... enduring weeks of stomach pain because of contaminated water in Jordan, and the inevitable disappointment when many of the Palestinian participants in our workshops cancelled because they were unable to receive a permit in time. I tried fighting bureaucracy to build a greywater recycling system in an unrecognized Bedouin village, like most, disconnected from the water and sewage network in Israel... Nothing stops us... a community of students and interns proving to the world that no matter our background, personal narrative, and perspective on the conflict, we can live peacefully, learn from each other, and grow together. "Perhaps that's the reason why I cannot seem to leave this place. *Originally planning on a short 5 month internship, I am now a full member of the Water Management team, staying here.*"

**M**ichelle M. spent the academic year with the *Ethiopian National Project (ENP)* in *Jerusalem* providing support and resources to members of the Ethiopian-Israeli community. "I graduated from the Hunter College School of Social Work, working with low-income and at-risk youth. The previous year at *Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities* I met with individual clients for vocational and social skills training and facilitated a social skills training support group for young adults with cognitive disabilities. At *ENP* I researched grant opportunities and drafted grant proposals, and volunteered in an all-girls high school offering academic enrichment programs."

**N**aomi B.'s position was Development Intern at *Shatil, the social justice and human rights arm of the New Israel Fund*. "My task was to understand every aspect of the organization and work it into cohesive paragraphs to send around the world, to show the idea that with proper training and equipment, anyone can be empowered to make changes for themselves and their situation... I can relive each day that I left the office with immense joy and pride for the work I was doing. My 20 grant reports, proposals, and news pieces, combined with 9 blog posts, pages of notes about advancing social media, and 8 interviews could be compiled into my very own *Shatil siddur* (prayerbook)— my cubicle had become not just a work place, but a holy space." Naomi finished her report writing about life in Jerusalem during the Gaza operation. "Life went on as normal, with some disruptions and heartache as friends and family were called back into the reserves. I, like all, pray for a swift and easy end to the conflict which has already cost too many innocent lives: Israeli, Bedouin, and Gazan... I would not have been able to have had these opportunities without the exceptional aid of the Amy Adina Schulman Fund. I hope that I have honored Adina's memory as I worked for a more democratic Israel, and continue to work for a peaceful and fulfilled Jewish community. I hope you all find holy spaces in the upcoming new year."

...reflecting a personal need.

**A**bbey W. “There is nothing in my life that has affected me more than the death of my father who died in a state of poverty and in the hands of a system that places profits before people. This has shaped the work I do.” Abby’s grant allowed her to volunteer with the *Kino Border Initiative* in *Nogales, Sonora, Mexico*, which receives more than 100 people deported daily from the U.S. KBI operates a dining hall and shelter serving repatriated Mexican and Central American women. “It was very challenging to work with people deported to Nogales who had been living in the U.S. for many years and who were suddenly separated from their families and U.S. born children. Although our fundamental task was providing basic services to migrants in transit, we were also accompanying migrants through an extremely challenging moment in their lives... I am part of a network of young educators and activists seeking to build community to bridge the divide between academia and activism.” Abby also records “it was the work of a dear friend, who introduced me to a thriving Jewish community of social justice” that led to the Amy Adina Fund.

**C**hanning M., a junior at Cornell, described his “coming from a similar situation” in his earlier work with low income families in the Columbus, Ohio area. His grant enabled him to work as a Youth Empowerment Intern with the *Three Rivers Community Foundation* in *Pittsburgh*, leading its Youth Ambassadors program, targeted for high school age youth from diverse backgrounds... “exposing them to work being done to help prevent and change injustice in all its forms.” After their training, the Youth Ambassadors create workshops for youth in grades 4-6, with Channing overseeing the workshops and providing assistance to these Youth Ambassadors.



Hasan B. with others planting trees on Tu B'Shvat

...gender issues are a common focus of Amy Adina Fund recipients.

**C**aroline M., interned at the *Girls and Women Integration Program* of the *Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)*. She holds an undergraduate degree from Duke and is now completing dual master’s degrees from Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs and from the Mailman School of Public Health. “From a young age, my parents instilled in me a commitment to community involvement in *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) and my individual responsibility to contribute to improving the lives of others.” At the Clinton Global Initiative, she records: “I played a significant role in shaping the content for various sessions at the September annual meeting. I conducted background research and drafted questions and talking points to help shape the conversation, researching and proposing potential speakers, questions, and topics that elevated and integrated the gender perspective into all the dimensions of CGI’s work on education, global health, environmental stewardship, finance, food security, energy.”

## WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

Watch for announcements and updates when we launch our new website — where details about our grantees, past and present, will be added regularly. You will also find information about the 27th Annual Lecture for the 2014-15 academic year.

