

*All the world is a narrow bridge*

*the main thing is not to fear.*

September/October 2013

Tishrei 5774

Dear Friends,

Walking home from Rosh HaShanah Services with Mel and Amy Adina in October 1986, the three of us were singing a melody the rabbi had woven throughout the Service. Prancing and pirouetting around us, as her curls bobbed up and down, Adina taught us the Hebrew words to the melody:

**Kol ha-Olam Kulo**

All the world is

**Gesher Tsar Me'od (2x)**

A narrow bridge

**V'ha-Ekar (2x)**

But the main thing

**Lo Le'fa-ched Klal**

Is not to fear.

**A perfect moment—that next to last time we would ever be together, these words her parting gift to us.**

The melody and words still dissolve me to tears, but tears which prod me to continue taking the next steps across that narrow bridge, a commitment expressed so powerfully by Lily B. a grantee worked this year in Rwanda,

“And yet [despite the adversity] we’re looking towards a future with excitement which, I guess, says everything there is to say about human resilience.”

During these Days of Awe I sit in wonder at the more than 1,000 grantees whose insights and passions have been translated into social action. When we created this fund 26 years ago we couldn’t imagine that channeling our grief would not only keep Amy Adina’s vision and insatiable optimism and activist work alive, but would also support concrete action which flies in the face of the world’s headlines.

This past year the Amy Adina Fund gave grants to 63 young people, change agents who are growing into tomorrow’s leaders in their fields of choice — the classroom, the arts, the courthouse, the hospital ward, or working on peacemaking, water conservation or gender equality — to list only a few of their paths on the spectrum of progressive social projects which bring hope to peoples on every continent. Do take a brief moment to experience this promise by reading a few of their stories.

**Please join us in honoring the work of our grantees, past and present by continuing to support the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund as generously as you are able. Every year the number of worthy requests increases. Each tax-deductible dollar you donate goes directly to grantees. All expenses are covered by the Schulman family.**

Shana Tova, Metuka, u'Shlema

May you and your family celebrate a good, sweet, and full and fulfilling New Year.

Ruth (and Mel z”l)

Dan and Jennie, and Molly and Jake

Joel and Nancy, and Logan

**S**ARAH HOLCMAN, with a BFA in dance from Arizona State University and professional experience in NYC, Roanoke, and Durham, and **JENNA BERENT**, a Rochester native with a BS in Psychology from University of Pittsburgh, each volunteered for a program with *B'Tzedek –LIFE (Leadership and International Fellowship Experience)* to work for four months in *Hyderabad, India* and five months in Israel. They focused on women's empowerment and public health initiatives, respectively. SARAH writes. "I was exposed to complexity of issues in Israel and India in such a visceral way that I had to make a daily reaffirmation to myself that not having the answers or tools to deal with all of the issues (beyond her comfort zone) was o.k. Without the assistance from the Amy Adina Fund I really would not have been able to go... I used the money for vaccinations, supplies, and living expenses, camera equipment for documentation, and travel to and from villages... Based on my experience as an artist in India I have been asked to advise a dance-based program out of NYC to work in the realm of women's empowerment through dance in developing countries."

JENNA interned with the *Naandi Foundation in India* working in the malnutrition department, responsible for developing data collection, questionnaires on infant and young child feeding practices to better understand consumption behaviors or pregnant woman and their infants. In Israel she interned at *Clalit*, one of the largest HMOs" ...working with a team of researchers investigating health disparities and behavioral differences between Ethiopian immigrant women and Israeli-born women... My second placement was with the *African Refugee Health Clinic in the Central Bus Station in South Tel Aviv*. I have been able to improve their procedures and methods used in the clinic, while also contributing health education to staff and patients alike. I have broadened my education beyond my expectations, allowing me to narrow-in more specifically on what I would like to do in graduate school."

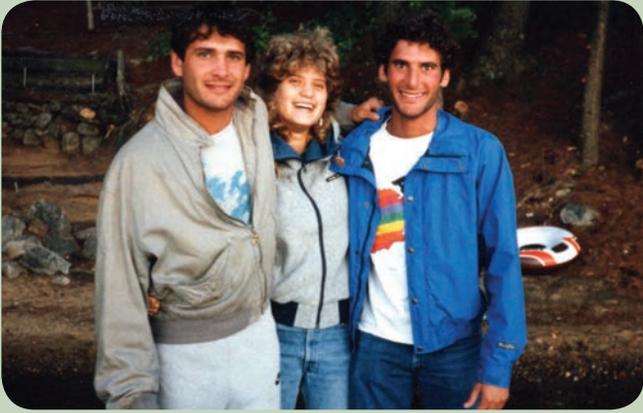
"I have decided to extend my stay in Israel. I have been so involved with my internship with *Clalit* and the *Refugee Clinic* that I could not pass up the opportunity to stay and continue working with them. I have been hired at the clinic to work 30 hours a week. When I do return to the U.S., I will continue to be involved in organizations that advance social change. Thank you again for your support and assistance. I am deeply appreciative. This has been a year that I will never forget."

**M**AYA BERKMAN was vice president of her local Middletown, CT BBYO chapter and had been awarded the Grinspoon B'nai Tzedek Youth Foundation's Unsung Hero Teen Leadership Award. Her grant was a summer internship in *Israel* with *Windows: Alternative Tours to the West Bank*. "It exceeded all expectations. It was a multifaceted experience, complete with behind-the-scenes work in the office and hands-on work with programs and trips. I worked on grants and documents, prepared tutorials, managed social media, and event planning, becoming sensitive to the importance of language and word choice."

"I attended a group tour, led by Windows teens and facilitators in the South Hebron Hills, as well as Susya in the West Bank. To see the facilitators and teens engaged in such heavy conversations and exercises was beyond inspiring. Overcoming language barriers, the poised teens asked questions that probed and challenged the norms and views of their peers on the 'other' side. That weekend, while I continued to manage food preparation and logistics, I observed and absorbed as much of the teens' discussion as possible. It was extraordinary. I believe I am better able to draw complete and sophisticated conclusions and critically analyze developments in the region."



Grantee Sarah Holcman in Hyderabad, India



Amy Adina with brothers Dan and Joel, September 1984

**D**ANIELLE TAM NGO, a student at UC Berkeley interned this summer as a production coordinator at *Village de l'Est Green Growers Initiative Cooperative (VEGGI) in New Orleans, LA*. Her internship was a combination of public service and sustainable agriculture. She developed curriculum materials for VEGGI's educational outreach to this largest concentration of Vietnamese people outside of Vietnam, war refugees who experienced Hurricane Katrina flooding their entire neighborhood and the BP Oil Spill devastating their local fishing industry. She also worked on horticulture projects performing daily and weekly operations for the aquaponic and in-ground farming systems.

**N**OMI TEUTSCH worked with the *Inter-Religious Coordinating Council of Israel* and *Kol Haisha, the Rape Crisis Center* where she facilitated a landmark conference of 40 Rabbis, Sheikhs, 'Kadin, Imams, and Priests, clergy of all major faith communities in Israel (Jews, Muslims, Druze, and Christians) on Domestic Violence. This first of its kind conference gave religious leaders insight into the dynamics of domestic violence, a better understanding of women's needs, and equipped them with practical skills for how to speak out against and respond to cases of violence in their communities.

She writes that central to her identity formation were the nine summers she spent at Habonim-Dror's Camp Galil as a camper, counselor, and finally the camp's education director. "Growing up at Galil, Amy Adina's name was remembered with love and esteem."

**A**LEXANDER RODNEY is a 24 year old recent Harvard Law graduate with an interest in law, ethics, and progressive Zionist causes. He is currently a *Volunteer Legal Advisor (judicial clerk) to the Chief Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court*, invited to research and advise in the field of "transitional justice" - legal mechanisms that help foster forgiveness and promote reconciliation. Previously a judicial clerk for the federal court in Boston, his focus was civil rights litigation. "I look forward to advancing the democratic values to which Israel is so committed and to educating and inspiring others about these experiences and challenges on my return to the U.S."

**M**ICHAEL DEMPSTER'S background in film production included volunteer work in Sitka with Native Alaskan teens, and mentoring inner-city L.A. teens. His grant request was titled "*Understanding Filmmaking as Inter-Ethnic Dialogue*" in the city of Akko, Israel. In his final report he wrote, "The degree of ethno-religious tension and conflict in Akko took me by surprise." He was not able to work on coexistence video projects. "Ultimately I was able to teach basic video production to teens at an Arab High School in Akko and to teens in Julis, a Druze Village. They learned the fundamentals of filming and editing, and I believe these skills will be further developed by future volunteers."

"I held one of my video lessons during Pesach and an Arab student brought me a bag of pastries that her mother had baked. I explained I would love to try them, but I couldn't eat any bread at that time. All the students became quiet and it was clear that until that moment they hadn't realized that I was Jewish. I was afraid this revelation might negatively affect what had been a very good rapport and relationship. One of the students asked why, if I was Jewish, would I want to teach Arabs? I explained our mutual interest and passion for filmmaking was more important than our superficial differences of background. The high level of respect we had for one another was maintained for the rest of the year."

"Your grant allowed me to teach the students with a very decent camera. As I make short films, I will share them with you so that you can use them on your website to promote your fund."

**C**HRISTOPHER EDELMAN volunteered for nine months with the *Arias Foundation* serving as an expert advisor to the *Costa Rican Mission to the United Nations*. A Princeton in Latin America fellow with a Master of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge, UK; one of his previous publications discussed "The Ability of Terrorist Groups to Make Credible Commitments to Peace," based on his study of Colombia's negotiations with the FARC.

Chris ran the ARIAS Foundation's public advocacy campaign, designed infographics, set up panel discussions, and published articles. He served as "expert advisor delegate to the Costa Rican Mission to the UN at the Final Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in March 2013...culminating in the successful passage of an historic Arms Trade Treaty in the UN General Assembly on April, 12th, 2013...Success!"

"Thank you so much for your generosity and support. It means a lot to me, and I hope that it enabled it to mean at least a little bit...to the people and communities we serve around the world."

**R**ACHEL KANTER KEPNES is a graduate of Brown University, currently studying for a master's degree in International Affairs & Human Rights at Columbia University. Rachel spent the summer interning with *United Nations Women in Vietnam*, a UN agency focusing on eliminating domestic and gender-based violence. She drafted a policy brief for the Vietnamese government on domestic violence, contributing to the report on Vietnam's "2015 Millennium Development Goals" related to gender.

**A**LIYAH LASKY worked with children with mental and physical disabilities at *Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem*. One class had children connected to breathing tubes and machines, but she found ways to work with each patient's physical and mental disabilities, practicing positive reinforcement, singing a song while changing a diaper. "My most difficult day was my last day at Alyn. I had connected to each of those patients."

"Honestly I thank the people primarily responsible for making this trip such a success, the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund. If it wasn't for this wonderful organization, this experience would have never been possible and for that, I am eternally grateful."

**A**MIR CAHN has dual Masters in Public Affairs and in Environmental Science from Indiana University. His two internships through *Career Israel* were to conduct an environmental impact assessment for a national committee considering exporting natural gas off Israel's coastline, and promoting the effective use of smart water networks. "Learning about a new area of water resources (pipes, valves, telemetry) with which I wasn't at all familiar. I now plan to make Aliyah and will continue to work on smart water networks. I have arranged with my local synagogue in Bellevue, Washington, to deliver a series of Skype conversations to their teenage youth program about my experiences working in Israel's environmental field. I can't express how grateful I am for your organizations generosity and hope to remain in touch."

From past grantee MELISSA LINCOLN TAL: *"We welcomed our first son, Ezra, two weeks ago on July 30... We wanted to mark this joyous occasion (his bris) with a donation to the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund... We are so grateful for our beautiful son and want to thank the Fund for being part of our journey... Five years ago with the help of my grant, I was able to support myself as I volunteered with children at an after-school program for at-risk middle and high schoolers in Be'er Sheva (during the Gaza incursion)... It was an extremely powerful year that I will never forget... We hope that Ezra has, and takes the opportunity to spend time in Israel as we have. Thank you so much for everything... "*