

Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund

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Dear Friends,

To be honest we would not have chosen this. But 30 years ago our world shattered, a disaster of shards. The love from our communities — Princeton, Habonim-Dror, Rutgers — and from friends who shared stories and memories somehow gave us the strength to choose not to remain broken, but to begin to rebuild a world that could once again be whole and full of blessings.

In her brief 20 years, Amy Adina's life was filled with love and laughter, even while pursuing tough questions about systems and institutions that perpetuated injustice. Those questions led to her activism, and her activism became the pathway toward our reconstructing a compassionate and just world.

November 2016 marks the 30th anniversary of Amy Adina's death. The following year, 1987, with trepidation and hope, Mel, Dan, Joel, and Ruth launched the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund. Mel sold his Thiokol stock, and we reached out to a list of people in our community who had expressed interest in helping us find a meaningful way to honor Amy Adina's life. Together we invested the seed money for the Fund. In nearly three decades the Fund has awarded more than 900 grants to similarly-spirited, mostly young people in their late teens through their mid-twenties. It is a time when they explore their personal role on the world stage, when young activists learn "All the world is a narrow bridge but the main thing is not to fear." They discover that their challenge is to find their own way across and to enable others to do the same.

The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund supports individuals rather than institutions as a way to honor Amy Adina's pursuit of social justice. Grantees have learned about the organizations in which they volunteer, and have helped to improve, while also assisting thousands of individuals across five continents. They fight for justice on the front lines, and then take those lessons with them into their own careers working in public service, law, education, healthcare, the environment, journalism, and more, in communities around the world.

Looking back at the work the Fund has enabled year after year is inspiring, a reminder that Amy Adina's progressive spirit continues to ripple into the lives of people she never knew, but who carry on the important work she valued most.

This November is a milestone no parent or sibling ever wishes to mark, but we find optimism and hope in the hard work of these inspiring grantees. And we thank you so much for your ongoing support! All your contributions remain tax-deductible and every dollar continues to go directly to grantees.

Health, strength, a year of peace and fulfillment from the Schulman Family to you and those you love.

Ruth (and Mel z"l) • Dan, Jennie and Molly and Jake • Joel, Nancy and Logan



"There are stars up above, so far away we only see their light long, long after the star itself is gone. And so it is with the people we love - their memories keep shining ever brightly though their time with us is done. But the stars that light up the darkest night, these are the lights that guide us. As we live our days, these are the ways we remember."

Hannah Senesh,
1921-1944

Each year the Fund's mission supports a growing group of activists who fully immerse into social justice projects about which they are passionate, enabling them to grow as individuals. With no geographic constraints on where they may work, grantees depart each year to far-flung destinations. The energy and budding expertise they contribute frequently turns out to be a particularly formative experience helping them become trailblazers on paths both familiar and unknown.



Elizabeth R • Villa Guadalupe, Nicaragua

“I had the chance to really learn about the world in an environment without rose-colored glasses.” 2015-16 grantee **Elizabeth R** worked with Manna Project International in Villa Guadalupe, Nicaragua. She helped provide critical services to a community facing unemployment, food insecurity, and malnutrition. “There is no education about health or women’s rights in the school system, so this job fell to me... I had a goal to have my girls open up to me, trust me, and understand the importance of being strong and independent women.” Elizabeth became self-directed and empowered as she taught English, Girls’ Health, and Women’s Rights classes while writing grants to bring more resources to the community.

Apply for a grant online at
AmyAdinaSchulmanFund.org

2016 grantee **Amanda M** worked for a medical clinic that provides vital medical services to refugee communities in Tel Aviv. “One of my projects over the course of my time at the clinic was a Women’s Health Day. The purpose of the event was to provide free, general checkups for the women of the refugee community mixed in with educational information and pamphlets. We set up the women with short visits with GPs, dentists, gynecologists, and nurses.” The plan extended beyond single visits. “We also documented their vital signs in a personal health booklet that the women could use as a baseline for future doctors’ visits.”

The event was a success, but in such environments success can expose new organizational challenges. “We had such a high volume of participants that we were forced to turn away some women due to resource and time constraints.” Long-term change never comes quickly or without tremendous effort, but Amanda was able to help set up large numbers of follow-up appointments for women facing important health issues and to witness the efficacy of her efforts in action. “We saw women coming in with our health booklets for their follow ups for weeks after the event.”



Amanda M • African Refugee Clinic, Tel Aviv

Contributions to social justice may take many forms in clinics and classrooms, but they also take place within corridors of power behind closed doors, as 2016 grantee **Tamar H** learned as a foreign law clerk for a judge of the Supreme Court of Israel. “During my clerkship I was offered the chance to attend a chambers’ visit to an Israeli prison. It was one of the most important experiences I’ve had as a soon-to-be lawyer, and it was truly inspiring to see the Judiciary at the highest level of the government engaging directly in the day-to-day questions of prison conditions.”



Tamar H • Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Israel

As Tamar recounts, these early opportunities to pursue passions often yield pivotal moments of experience and observation that affect the paths young activists choose to take. Elizabeth’s students made progress. Amanda’s event attendees returned for future health check-ups. At critical junctures like these, one’s sense of what’s possible shifts. With support from The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund, grantees grow their activism into lives driven by the pursuit of social justice.

OUR ALUMNI

Checking in on five Fund Alumni, grantees from past years, reveals a definite connection between the Fund’s bridge grant to them, and the arc of their careers as activists today.



Distance can throw into sharp relief the impact of a grant on one’s life and direction. “My time at Adam Teva V’Din—the Israel Union for Environmental Defense—clarified my interest in environmental law and definitely formed the foundation for my career,” said 1996 grantee **Jack Jacobs**. The Fund allowed Jacobs to pack up after college graduation and dive deep into the area of interest that would become his area of expertise. When the Amy Adina fellowship was over, Jacobs returned to the US to study law at the Vermont Law School and then began practicing environmental law in the US. He spent time in litigation, venture capital, and policy analysis before eventually returning to Israel to teach environmental law at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies. He also worked in the Israel’s Ministry of Environmental

Protection. Today, he lives in Jerusalem with his wife and three kids and runs Cleantech Law Partners, a practice he founded that focuses on renewable energy and other clean technologies. “The (Amy Adina Schulman) fellowship turned out to be one of the most influential experiences of my life,” he said.

2001 grantee **Dafna Hochman Rand** spent her grant period working at the Center for Jewish Arab Economic Development in Israel after graduating from Harvard University. She completed a PhD in Political Science at Columbia University and penned *Roots of the Arab Spring: Contested Authority and Political Change in the Middle East*. Transitioning from theory to practice, Rand went on to craft policy for the United States Senate as well as the United States Department of State, and spent time as a director at the White House National Security Council.

After graduating from Rutgers in 2006, **Eliot Blum**, a 2008 grantee, went to work on a vital de-worming project in Ethiopia. Blum, at the time, was studying medicine at the Sackler School of Medicine’s American Program in Tel Aviv. He returned to the US as a resident in

emergency medicine at the University of Massachusetts in Worcester and today is the medical director and chairman of the Emergency Department at Milford Hospital in Milford, CT. Blum's time in Ethiopia laid the foundation for his leadership role as an ER doctor.



"The months I spent in Israel clerking were some of the most meaningful in my life," recalled **Tatyana Margolin**, a grant recipient in 2009. "I truly felt like I saw what it is like to be an Israeli, to participate in its justice system. I used this opportunity to discuss many issues with my Israeli peers, from elections to the role of the Supreme Court in society." Today, Margolin is a division director at the Open Society Foundations' Eurasia program, overseeing and steering the efforts of eight national foundations in the Eurasia region. "Much of the work I oversee pertains to the Justice sector. Legal systems in the Eurasia region are challenged by many different factors. It's interesting to see parallels between Israel's relatively young judicial system and even younger ones in the countries where I work." In her previous capacity at OSF, Margolin was engaged in expanding access to justice for the most marginalized persons in Eastern Europe and East Africa. "This has been a pivotal focus of my career since the clerkship," said Margolin.

She continues to be in touch with Justice Danziger for whom she clerked. "I will always be grateful to the Fund for helping make this experience possible."

After graduating from Pitzer College with a degree in Latin American Studies and Economics, **Marcus Berkowitz** brought small business know-how, previously managing a bike shop, as a 2011 grantee working on microfinance opportunities with Kiva in Chimbo, Ecuador. His understanding of the complex benefits and burdens of debt helped him to identify impactful microfinance investment opportunities for the organization and its partners. Today, Marcus is the senior director of technology and innovation for Grameen America, an organization that helps women who live in poverty to build small businesses and improve their families' lives.

Looking back over three decades of incredibly talented grantees, from the past 29 years, what becomes clear is the important role that The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund plays in enabling generations of activists to advance their own knowledge and commitment as they grow into the persons they are meant to become. And they do this in ways that also improve institutions and the lives of so many other individuals around the world.

Leaving a gift to Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund through your will or living trust (referred to as a "bequest") is an easy and meaningful way to continue to see your values reflected through the work of young activists into the future. When making a bequest, please contact the Fund at 609-924-7235 and we will connect you to our investment advisor. The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund is an IRS designated 503(c)3 non-profit organization.

The Annual Newsletter is late this year. At the time of publication, Ruth is in Albany with her sister who is in home hospice.



SAVE

THE DATE

for a very special Annual Program: a film, conversation and concert with

David Broza & Ali Paris

Sunday Afternoon
March 26, 2017