

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

Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund

Dear Friends,

The world is facing enormous upheavals in weather and climate as well as in the political sphere. But there is an irresistible growing resource that gives hope—a generation of young social activists committed to working to bring help and healing, to overcoming cynicism, and to joining the continuum that moves toward justice and equality.

The future rests with fearless young people, like these grantees, who continue the work that Amy Adina so tragically could not. Shortly after the High Holy Days in 1986 our world was forever changed when Amy Adina died suddenly of an aneurysm, and we searched in the dark to find ways of affirming life and investing in hope. Love, grief, and community were the key ingredients from which our family created The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund, plus a fair measure of trust in a viable future.

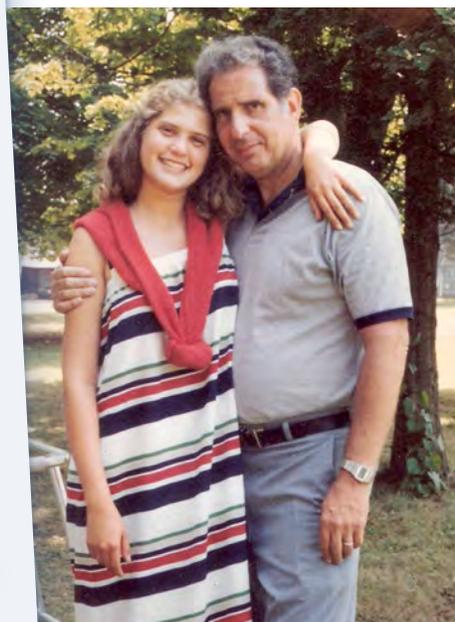
In March 2017, to mark a 30th anniversary no family would choose to commemorate, we celebrated the work of the nearly 1,000 grantees with a concert at Richardson Auditorium, in partnership with Princeton University's Center for Jewish Life. The concert, titled "Bridging the Divide," featured one of Amy Adina's favorite Israeli folk singers, peace activist David Broza, along with brilliant Palestinian prodigy Ali Paris. David and Ali electrified a full house with their mastery of the guitar and the *qanun* (a Middle Eastern cousin of the zither). During the post-concert talkback 700 audience members glimpsed what is possible when we are able to engage creatively with others and recognize our common humanity. Listening to these artists play music across cultural, political, and generational divides was a transformational experience—an affirmation of the Fund's core philosophy of investing in grantees who imagine and actively work to construct a future of equality and justice. Amy Adina would have loved the music and the message.

As I listened with my sons, my daughters-in-law, and my grandchildren, I was caught unaware by the bittersweet memory of Amy Adina walking across that same Richardson Auditorium stage at her eighth-grade graduation. The threads of our lives weave in and out, creating a tapestry of connection and continuity.

Thank you. Your generous support enables The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund to continue its critical work. My family and I are deeply grateful. We see again and again how your early support impacts the rest of our grantees' lives. They are the bright sparks that inspire us to join them on their journeys. We hope you will continue to support these future leaders as they build the path, travelling toward a more just and equitable future.

B'shalom,

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



Amy with her father, Mel



The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund invests in young people at a critical juncture in their lives. Our awards affirm and validate their progressive social justice passions and professional pursuits. Amy Adina's passion included the pursuit of civil rights, peace, and justice for Palestinians and Israelis. We believe she would welcome the Fund's recognition of today's global demands of these pursuits, as the Fund awards grants to young activists from North America who work here and around the world.

BELIEVING IN A FUTURE WITH ONE ANOTHER



Lynette H. at Center for Transboundary Water Management

Lynette H. worked as a research intern at the **Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES)**, which brings together students and interns from Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, and abroad to learn about environmental issues. At AIES' Center for Transboundary Water Management, Lynette participated in site visits and workshops with Israeli and Palestinian date farmers on issues of water scarcity, pollution, and wastewater re-use.

Lynette reports that she is working with people who come from staunch pro-Israel or pro-Palestine backgrounds but who are defying political norms to experience life together as a community.

"These past months have impacted me far more than I expected. People I regarded as my political opposite became my closest friends. Stereotypes were shattered as we travelled together, visited each other's homes, and actually just listened to one another. We are laughing, singing, complaining together, and being human with each other. Even in the midst of arguments, we lean on one another. This bond is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

SEEING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM FROM THE GROUND UP

Alexandra J. was a summer Investigator Intern at the **Legal Aid Society, New York City's** largest provider of legal services to the indigent. She worked in the Borough of Queens' criminal defense office assisting on fact investigation and trial preparation. Working on more than 60 cases, she canvassed for and obtained video surveillance, interviewed witnesses, collected evidence, and observed trial proceedings. "I feel so much more confident in both my commitment to public interest law and to the concept of justice as a whole, having interacted and amassed an intimate familiarity with people and communities the likes of which I know I never would have encountered in my privileged bubble. I could not be more grateful for the opportunity I was afforded in the form of this internship, and in turn, to the Amy Adina Schulman Fund (the Fund) for its role in making it possible."

BUILDING ON WHAT WE LEARN



Happy, healthy nutrition program beneficiaries

Martha L. is a Princeton in Latin America Fellow (PILA) interning with the **Manna Project** in Villa Guadalupe, **Nicaragua** to combat juvenile malnutrition. The Fund is pleased to have supported that initial endeavor, as well as her next role as Senior Program Director, leading the Child Sponsorship and Nutrition Program, an ambitious new endeavor that builds on what she learned during her internship.

"We're shifting our energy and creating a program focusing on the child's first 1,000 days of life," she writes. "1,000 Days of Difference combats childhood/infant malnutrition and supports the development of healthy

families through targeting pregnant women, especially pregnant adolescents. The program will provide breastfeeding support, nutritional supplements, health education, and monitoring during the first 1,000 days of a child's development, from pregnancy to age two. By working with mothers and children early on, we hope to prevent nutritional challenges before they even start."

LEADING BY LISTENING AND LEARNING



Tiffany B. & colleagues gather books for the community

Tiffany B., also a PILA Fellow, worked at **Yspaniola**, a youth educational program in Batey Libertad in the **Dominican Republic**. She too is staying on in a leadership role, expanding enrollment in the learning center, supporting teachers, and building partnerships with other community organizations.

Bateys are isolated and marginalized communities of people of Haitian descent. Tiffany learned that her Spanish-language fluency needed to be matched by cultural fluency in order for her to be effective. “At first I believed I was having trouble with Dominican

Spanish,” she writes. “But it was a completely different language, Haitian Creole. I needed to acclimate myself to the cadence and rhythm of the language.”

Once she did, she says, “I began to feel the gravity of the need. I heard stories of people struggling with the Dominican government to receive their documentation and how Yspaniola had helped. I have learned that this community is resilient. From them, I am slowly learning to accept the things I cannot change in a day. I resolve that the time I have here is meant to build community, to learn more about the people whom I serve, and to do my part, however small, in the ongoing fight against inequality.”



Tiffany B. with her most adorable host sister and most charming Creole teacher

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY MARKETS

Aaron F-H. was a teaching assistant for the **Arava Institute for Environmental Studies** Political Ecology Program working to maintain and improve off-grid energy systems like a hydroponic greenhouse, solar ovens, solar panels, and biogas digesters (composters that collect methane in order for use as a source of natural gas). “I focused on researching biogas technology to increase the efficiency of the system to assist integrating biogas into the natural gas grid,” Aaron writes. “Increasing the viability of the industrial biogas market, if successful, would also transform biogas into a completely closed, carbon negative system.”

“I’m hoping to return to Israel and acquire a legitimate job in renewable energy, biogas or solar, or youth education around sustainability. I will be getting involved in helping Palestinians retain and protect their civil rights as well as peacefully ending the conflict.”



Aaron F-H. engaging globally while working locally

HEARING THE PERSONAL STORIES IN THE ISSUES

Becca N. has been interning with the **Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel**, advocating for East African refugees in their asylum cases. She describes the challenge and privilege of hearing desperate and intimate stories and getting to know other passionate advocates for human rights.

Refugee issues are controversial. Becca describes the challenges. “I had the privilege of getting to know the asylum seekers who work here as community mediators, highly compassionate, generous, and strong people, acting as interpreters and bridging the cultural gap. They are incredibly smart and kind people open to sharing their experiences and their culture. They allowed me to see beyond the controversies and injustices and to form real friendships. This has been an invaluable growing opportunity. I will take this experience with me no matter where my life and career take me. Thank you for your support of the work I am doing.”



Becca N. having a brief respite

BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL

Melana D., a rising senior at the University of Pittsburgh, is passionate about working on sustainable and long-term solutions to complex global health problems. She volunteered with **Project TEN** in **Uganda**, which works in local communities in the areas of women's empowerment, health, and education. She taught English to primary students in four schools between Kampala and Entebbe.



Melana D. with students in and out of the classroom

Melana struggled with the difficulty of having a day-to-day impact when resources are inconsistent. "But by cultivating the methods of teachers and reinforcing existing relationships with administrators we helped to support strong infrastructure and therefore support students. Seeing students engage with lessons made all the work worthwhile. Seeing teachers employ methods we introduced was the ultimate indicator that the work will continue."

A HOST SITE'S PERSPECTIVE

The **Harpswell Foundation** is a U.S.-based nonprofit that equips young women in Southeast Asia with leadership skills, education, and a supportive network to create a new generation of women leaders who inspire and create positive social change. Their leadership centers in Phnom Penh, **Cambodia**, house exceptional female university students from poor rural families.

Leadership Residents (LRs) volunteer to live with students as tutors and mentors. One LR this year was **Astin A.**, a former Peace Corps and Americorps volunteer, who is the first Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund grantee to work with Harpswell.

"The staff and students are quickly falling in love with Astin," writes Alison Pavia, Executive Director of Harpswell. "She proved to be an excellent LR thanks to her extensive prior public service experience, cultural sensitivity, and maturity. We are so grateful to the Fund for supporting Astin and know that her presence in Phnom Penh will have an important impact on the students' futures."

IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO INVEST IN THESE SMART, DEDICATED GRANTEES

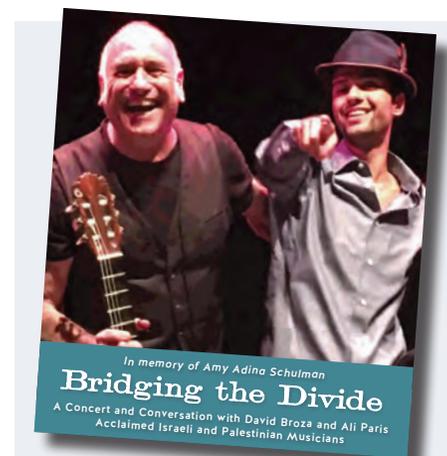
100% of your tax-deductible gift does directly to grantees, making an indelible impact on the trajectory of their lives in shaping a more just and compassionate world, and on the lives of the hundreds of people with whom each will make contact in the years to come.

To make a gift using a credit card or PayPal, click the donate button on our website, www.AmyAdinaSchulmanFund.org. (International contributors: Please donate using our website. AASMF cannot accept checks from non-U.S. banks.)

A contribution to celebrate a special occasion or to commemorate a life-cycle event is acknowledged with a personalized card to the honoree or the family, notifying them of your thoughtful gift.

If you're considering giving appreciated stock rather than cash, or contributing from your IRA, or a bequest or legacy gift, do contact Ruth at AmyAdinaSchulmanFund@verizon.net.

To you who are reading down to the very bottom of this annual newsletter, you are a tzadek, a righteous person who sustains and supports a vision of a loving humanity, helping and healing each other. A year of blessings, strength, and good deeds to you!



While we reflect on the broad reach of the 'Bridging the Divide' Concert, we at The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund are busy planning the return to the Annual Lecture format in the Spring of 2018. Watch for details when we finalize the speaker and date.