

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

## Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund

September 2018, Tishrei 5779

Dear Friends,

Thank you for reading our Annual Report. Your recent and past notes of support and comments about the work of the Fund, our grantees and their accomplishments help me significantly in the struggle against a world of increasing human-made and natural disasters. (Each year my children implore me, "Mom, don't catalog all the world's troubles!")

Focusing on committed grantees and their contributions to the communities in which they work enables me to set aside cynicism and hopelessness. I am reminded that we — supporters and grantees — do make progress along this journey of justice, equality, safety, and security.

As I grow older I have a new understanding of the wisdom of the ancient Sages: *"Lo alecha ha-m'lacha ligmor, v'lo ata ben chorin l'hiv-atel mimena... It is not upon you to complete the work, but neither can you desist from it."* I have come to realize the work is not an actual goal that can be completed. **It is a journey with markers that keep changing, disappearing—needing to be reset.** This work can never be completed by one individual, but is best approximated by each of us working to our own capacity, which changes as we age. We do this best within diverse and caring communities who nourish our energy and renew our dedication to the journey.

**I'm hopeful** because of the passion of wonderful grantees, a few of whom you'll read about in this report. They insist on not desisting from the work of building a life of service.

**I'm hopeful** because of the energy generated by the 900 people who heard Thomas Friedman at our 32nd Annual Memorial Lecture this past April, demonstrating that people with conflicting views can come together with civility and in community.

**I'm hopeful** because of your responses — the calls, emails, notes, and conversations my family and I have had with many of you this past year. Know that your moral and financial support in assisting these young activists in their areas of passion across the world has a major impact. **Each dollar you contribute goes directly to support grantees!** The Schulman family continues to cover all expenses for the Fund and the Annual Lecture.

We walk the journey, we do the work together.

May you know health, strength, and pride in the good work we are able to accomplish in this New Year as we embrace optimism and opportunity.

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



Amy Adina and Cousin Dave dancing at a family Bar Mitzvah three days before her deadly aneurysm. November 1986



Amy Adina hiking in Maktesh HaGadol Canyon, Israel, Spring 1985



Always a proud Princetonian

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 Israelis and Palestinians and those struggling in the US. 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.

## AN UNEXPECTED EVACUATION



**C**arol P. had been sending **C**us delightful monthly “Carol’s Newsaragua” letters detailing her activities with the **Manna Project in Nicaragua**. “At the beginning of March, a group from the University of South Florida’s Medical School arrived and I worked with another program director to help organize their medical brigade. We were able to have clinic five days a week instead of the usual three,

provide consultations and medications free of charge, and provide home visits for patients who could not come to the Cedro Galan Clinic,” she writes. “It was great to reach a larger number of patients.”

April started as an exciting month! We launched an English vocational training class for students in a new long-awaited computer lab. “We transitioned to having class in the computer lab so students could learn computer skills, how to type, and multitasking on a computer. It was great to be in a new environment that was more similar to actual work.”

But in the next monthly *Newsaragua*, Carol wrote, “April was a ‘calm before the storm month.’ At the end of April the Nicaraguan government announced major changes to the social security system (increased worker and employer contributions, but a reduction in retirees’ pensions each month.) Many were unhappy with this and started protesting peacefully, but this escalated into a very violent confrontation between the public and the government. The protests are among the largest and most violent in Nicaragua’s recent history. (Due to this civil unrest,) my fellow volunteers and I were unexpectedly evacuated out of the country.”



Peaceful protest before escalation to violence

At the time of writing her final report, Carol was preparing for medical school interviews.

## PUBLIC CHALLENGES & PERSONAL GROWTH

**S**am C. was a **Civil Liberties Fellow at the ACLU of Michigan** where he worked on several projects of intense interest to local communities. Working on the Smart Justice Campaign, he collected data on the bail system in jails and prisons in counties across Michigan. He researched and wrote a report on Project Green Light, a municipal streaming surveillance video system in Detroit, detailing its disproportionate impact on people of color and women. He worked with a small team to recruit Flint residents and experts on lead, all to work on the ongoing problem of safe drinking water in the Flint schools. In addition, he wrote a report for a class action suit related to preventing the deportation of massive numbers of Iraqi Christian immigrants back to Iraq.



Sam C.

Sam writes that one of his most important successes “was learning to work in a team. Thankfully, I had a great co-fellow who taught me how to better work with people one-on-one and in a group... to better collaborate to accomplish our goals.”

“Thank you so much for helping me work with The ACLU of Michigan and fight for a more just Michigan and a better world.”

Sam is currently working as a Production Assistant for *Stateside*, a daily news program of Michigan Public Radio.



Nicole H.'s STEM classroom



---

## MORE DEDICATED THAN EVER

**Arianna F.** took a pre-college gap year to live and work at **Tivnu**, a Jewish social justice gap year program in **Portland, Oregon**. She and eight other young people interned at social programs around the city, with Arianna “focusing on the houseless community as well as other vulnerable populations.” One of several sites in which Arianna worked was a nonprofit cafe run by houseless people, called Sisters of the Road Cafe. “There I was able to really get close to customers,” she writes. “Being exposed to so much mental illness, drug use, addiction, and violence was emotionally challenging for me but made me even more passionate about working with this community.”

“I am so lucky that I was able to participate in Tivnu. I became more informed and more passionate about dedicating my life to solving social justice issues. I learned so much that will prepare me for future career opportunities. I will cherish these values and skills for the rest of my life and I am forever grateful.”

---

## LEAVING A LEGACY

**Nicole H.** worked for the **DREAM Project in the Dominican Republic** in two main areas: as an evaluation analyst for USAID grant-funded programs; and developing, programming, and leading eight STEM classroom science experiments for a Montessori curriculum for students and their teachers.

“The students and teachers really loved these experiments, and they learned a lot,” Nicole writes. “In addition to giving the thirteen sites all the materials each month for the eight experiments, I prepared documents and spent time with teachers to be certain they understood the science behind the experiments to ensure the work was sustainable. At the end of the semester the teachers measured significant improvement in science knowledge.”

Starting a programming and robotics class as part of a Saturday program, Nicole also worked to develop a functioning computer room, fixing equipment, installing software, and arranging internet access. “It was a long road going from a room with three working computers and no internet to a room with 15 working computers and nine laptops with internet. I am very proud of this legacy.”

Nicole begins a Master’s program in biostatistics at Brown this fall.

---

## LOCAL POLITICS IMPACTED BY GLOBAL TRENDS

**Maya A.** worked with the **Organization of Refugee Asylum and Migration (ORAM) in Tel Aviv** at a critical transitional period in the organization’s history. ORAM is one of the only organizations in the world focused on advocating for LGBTQI refugees. Unfortunately, ORAM’s direct client advocacy work ground to a near standstill due to funding challenges and to restrictive resettlement policies in the U.S. and Western Europe, especially regarding Syrian refugees. Maya helped in the facilitation of a merger between ORAM and a German-based advocacy organization. Her work in support of this transition gave Maya an unusual perspective into organizational history, documentation, and finances.

“Unable to become directly involved with client work, I was able to learn about the process of individual advocacy,” she writes. Maya managed ORAM’s email Help Account which is available to refugees and asylum-seekers worldwide with questions regarding their status and how they should proceed to secure their safety. “I was trained to respond to these inquiries and refer refugees to local NGOs for specific legal advice or basic humanitarian services. This portion of my job was extremely powerful; it illustrated both the impact and the limitations in the ability of any one NGO to protect vulnerable populations.”

Wanting to learn more about the different ways in which relevant NGOs are structured and focus their efforts to maximize their impact, Maya supplemented her work at ORAM by volunteering part-time with the Eritrean Women’s Center (EWC). “Some organizations focus on fighting for legal victories in Israeli courts to systemically change the position of Eritreans in Israel. Others, like the EWC, were more focused on direct client support – fundraising for food and providing medical services.”

“I have come to a deeper understanding of the dramatic impact individual leaders and policymakers at the national level can have on the international human rights regime. I am inspired to take a greater interest in local government and politics.”

“And I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that the Amy Adina Schulman Fund gave me to explore this issue and enabled me to learn not only how to serve, but how best to serve vulnerable refugee populations.”

Maya is continuing her work on LGBTQI asylum cases with an internship at the Anti-Violence Project in New York.

---

## HOST SITE PERSPECTIVE: THE ARAVA INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

**F**or many years the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund has been pleased to support qualified North American interns to work in the Arava Institute. The Arava Institute, an environmental and academic institution in the Middle East, is a unique institution where its participants gain a greater understanding of the Middle East by working with leading professionals, forming international friendships, and developing skills for solving environmental challenges as they live, work, and learn here together. It includes Transboundary research centers that address the most pressing environmental challenges in the area. Dedicated to generating capacity-building for conciliation and cooperation, it prepares a cadre of environmental leaders from Israel, Palestine, and Jordan to advance cross-border environmental cooperation and discourse. Building trust among participants is facilitated by the perspective of participants from outside the Middle East, including the U.S. and Canada.

According to Rabbi Michael Cohen, Director of Community Relations for Friends for the Arava Institute, AASMF grantees bring vital and critical perspectives from North America to their counterparts in the Middle East. Grantees return home, able to share their realistic, balanced understandings and environmental knowledge with peers, providing a way to discuss the complexities of the region as an antidote to divisive rhetoric. You can learn more about them by visiting past newsletters available on our website: [www.AmyAdinaSchulmanFund.org/annual-newsletters](http://www.AmyAdinaSchulmanFund.org/annual-newsletters).

---

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

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](http://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 [ruth@amyadinaschulmanfund.org](mailto:ruth@amyadinaschulmanfund.org).

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!*

---

*"...I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that the Amy Adina Schulman Fund gave me to explore...not only how to serve, but how best to serve vulnerable refugee populations." –Maya A.*

*"Thank you so much for helping me work with The ACLU of Michigan and fight for a more just Michigan and a better world." –Sam C.*

---

## THE 32ND ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE



This annual community event, funded by the Schulman family, features exceptional speakers discussing vital social justice concerns in Israel and globally. On April 22, 2018 at Jewish Center of Princeton, Pulitzer Prize winning author and *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman spoke to 900 people on "The U.S., Israel, and The Middle East: Shifting Sands in a Troubled World." It was an inspiring evening during which Friedman challenged the audience to "carry seemingly conflicting thoughts in our heads" in order to hold on to hope for peace and justice."

---

## THE 33RD ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE

We're still in the planning stages for the 33rd Annual Memorial Lecture. Keep a look-out for an announcement about our featured speaker and the event location.