

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

Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund

Dearest family, friends, community and past grantees,

Thank you. Your support enables us to assist some fifty young people each year working in progressive social justice activities in the U.S., the Middle East, Latin America and around the world.

These emerging leaders inspire us and create hope for a meaningful future. Inside are a few samples from the emails, blogs, video chats, social media posts and poems from grantees that we receive throughout the year. They are an antidote to dispiriting daily headlines, one of many benefits of the Fund's work.

I was reminded recently of the long-term returns promised by investments in young people. In 1953 I was 19 years old and wanted to make my first trip to Israel to work on a Habonim kibbutz. My mother reluctantly agreed only because she knew how much it would have meant to her father, my grandfather. He had purchased land in Palestine after World War I, but never got there. In fact he died seven years before I was born. But his vision, hope and commitment were passed down to me and that trip dramatically altered my life.

Our family had a similar hope for future generations in mind when Amy Adina died suddenly at age 20 and we were searching for a way to sustain the work she valued. With your support, we've been investing in young people like the ones featured here for more than thirty years. Many of our alumnae choose paths in healthcare, law, education, the arts, the clergy, journalism, politics, policy and public service. One of grantees featured in this newsletter — Tal N-S — is the child of a childhood friend of Amy Adina. As with her great-grandfather, Amy Adina's vision, hope and commitment truly do live on.

The applicant pool has changed over these thirty years. Today's young people possess the sophistication and savvy to navigate complex conversations across divides of territory, environment, gender, resource access, education and the intersection of all these. We're inspired by young people who are moving fluidly from hashtags that work well on social media to actions and policies that transform lives and create opportunities for others. And they are doing this across the globe and in their own backyards.

These emerging leaders reassure us that a better world is possible. Despite disappointments in our present, we have the option and the responsibility to carry on — and to pass on — the power of hope and vision! Please continue to work with us as generously as you are able.

May this be a year of remembrance and reaffirmation through active, collective responsibility for each other.

With love and thanks for all you do,

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



Amy Adina and her grandmother



We ran out of room!

To learn more about Mia L-Z, pictured here, and the work of other AASMF grantees, visit our website for regular updates...

The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund invests in young people at a critical juncture in their lives. Our grants 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 U.S. 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.

MOMENTS OF WONDER



"Perhaps it is a mitzvah to pray at the reddening of the sun because it is a moment of wonder. No matter how many times you have seen a sunset, you still want to see the next one."

—Tractate Brachot

Lior G. worked as an environmental researcher at the Arava Institute in Israel, but is also a poet, photographer and trans-spokesperson. Not only passionate about science, Lior builds bridges of understanding through scientific research. In a given day, Lior was capturing pH samples, running workshops with the Nonbinary Hebrew Project, attending Torah classes and photographing the sunset.

Lior's blog captured his enthusiasm in tracking down evidence of cyanobacteria in the soil crust of the arid Wadi Shita. In one typical entry, Lior wrote, "On the

first day . . . , I got to work with a biocrust superstar." Other blog posts reflected on the importance of oral history to capture a multiplicity of voices: "How is it that that which is written centuries ago is given more weight than if spoken aloud (now)? . . . This practice firmly puts the authority over knowing and knowledge with those who hold the financial means, racialized credibility and privilege of publication."

Lior was invited to present his laboratory findings at a biocrust conference in Australia this summer and will continue scientific research into soil and sustainable arid environment agriculture.



Climate March in Tel Aviv

SOLIDARITY THROUGH EXCHANGE

TAL N-S., an Oberlin College graduate from Philadelphia, lived and worked for 10 months in Guatemala City as a human rights accompanier with NISGUA, the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala. Accompaniers provided a "dissuasive physical presence" for activists who are at risk of violence when seeking criminal justice or protecting their territory.



Tal accompanying a court hearing in the Maya Achí sexual violence case.

In letters to friends and family, Tal described accompanying indigenous Xinka people to resist the work at a Canadian-owned silver mine that has devastating effects on Xinka ancestral territory. "Mine resistance groups maintain highway-side encampments that hold up mining activity while community consultations are negotiated," Tal wrote. "People from surrounding communities have maintained these encampments in 24-hour shifts for years."

Other work involved the aftermath of Guatemala's 36-year internal armed conflict, which inspired Tal to reflect on the connection with the refugee crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border: "I've been witnessing how corrupt government policies steeped in racism and a disregard for the environment have exacerbated the conditions that force migration – violence, poverty and lack of opportunity, to name a few. Land defenders in particular face an array of threats as they fight the projects that destroy their homes."

After a successful fundraiser for NISGUA, Tal wrote, "I am inspired and encouraged thinking about the international solidarity work, horizontal exchanges and educational opportunities made possible by this grassroots fundraising. Together we can stand in solidarity with the inspiring human rights defenders who for decades have been striving to create a more just, conscientious and transparent society."



Bayse's students at Harpswell in Cambodia



Tal accompanying the March for Memory and Justice



Lior's Petri dish



Vanessa's girls

BROADENING THE SCOPE

Amitai A., a Harvard University senior, worked in Israel, Palestine and Jordan with Project Return to establish a new capacity-building project for pro-peace, pro-human rights civil society in the region.

Called Embodying Peace, Amatai's project was designed to link peace organizations together to share their expertise and amplify their impact. He spent his time meeting with activists and workers to learn about the resources they have to share and to begin building an online platform to facilitate that sharing.

Amitai reported that he learned how complicated the term "peacebuilding" itself has become. Many activists in the region, he wrote, are working simply to remove psychological and other barriers to peace: "Shaking up the term 'peacebuilding' generated serious improvement in understanding the scope of Embodying Peace's mission, which has broadened and emboldened considerably."

Read Amitai's full report on our website.

FEARLESS AGENTS OF CHANGE



Vanessa with one of her "girls."

Vanessa S. was a Princeton Fellow volunteering for two years at Mariposa DR Foundation (MDRF) in the Dominican Republic. She worked on women's health advocacy, particularly in education programs for girls.

"With my classes I led community mural projects, built sustainable infrastructures with EcoBricks, visited national parks, went scuba diving and watched as my students flourished as fearless agents of change in their communities."

Vanessa later became the project manager for the Mariposa Museum of the Girl, the world's first museum dedicated to the triumphs and obstacles girls around the world face. "It will use the lens of the realities of girls in the DR to tell this story," Vanessa wrote. "It was an honor and a humbling experience. I was fortunate to work with many people in the country that gave me invaluable experience. This project is an exciting expansion that will place MDRF on a larger platform to join the global conversation on the fight for women's and girls' equity."

Vanessa has moved to New York to pursue a graduate degree and career in exhibition and immersive experience design. She takes with her, she wrote, inspiration from "the ingenuity, beauty and tenacity of adolescent girls. My greatest source of pride over these two years has been the enthusiasm and accomplishments of my girls as they've taken the discussions and lessons learned in the classroom with them into their communities."

ENVISIONING A FLOURISHING CAMBODIA

Bayse P., a recent graduate of Wheaton College, joined the Harpswell Foundation in Cambodia as a leadership resident. Harpswell, a long-time partner of the Amy Adina Schulman Foundation, supports young rural women with academic promise when they attend university. The dormitories, leadership development programs and other services give the students the resources they need to succeed in an unfamiliar community.

Bayse lived and worked in a dormitory with 35 students pursuing careers in law, economics, human rights and women-centered financial movements. "These ambitious, inspiring women," she wrote, "pursued a wide array of degrees with a unified focus and motivation – to be the women who will lead their country toward a more just, equitable and flourishing Cambodia."

Her original appointment concluded, Bayse is staying on at Harpswell as a consultant to reimagine and update the leadership curriculum: "I truly can't speak highly enough of the organization, the caliber of leadership, the passion of my fellow leadership residents and the students who welcomed me into their home with warmth and excitement. A million thanks for playing a role in opening the door to what was an incredibly impactful experience."



Some of Bayse's students

APPLICATION APPROVED: A PEEK AHEAD AT A CURRENT GRANTEE

Morgan L. is interning with the Washtenaw County (Michigan) Office of the Public Defender Internship Program. She is gaining hands-on courtroom experience with veteran public defenders, taking part in trials, motions, pre-trial conferences and sentencing hearings.

In her application Morgan wrote, "I will be working for indigent clients who need legal representation, learning more about the rights of such indigent clients and the correlation between wealth and prison sentences." After her internship, Morgan plans to go to law school, focusing on criminal defense and advocacy.



FIVE YEARS LATER



Allyza's AIES grey water management project

Allyza L., a 2014 grantee who had interned at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, contacted us with an update recently. She has since earned a Masters in Environmental Management at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, focusing on the impacts of sea level rise on coastal communities and the broader human

dimensions of climate change. She now works for the U.S. Global Change Research Program in Washington, D.C.

“My role primarily revolves around the National Climate Assessment, a major federal report that covers the impacts and risks associated with climate change in the U.S.,” she wrote. “I coordinate the development and production of the report, and contribute to strategic thinking around climate assessment more broadly. I’m still very grateful to the Amy Adina Schulman Fund for your support back in 2014! My time in Israel offered perspective that I take with me to this day.”

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

100% of your tax-deductible gift goes 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, contributing from your IRA, or a bequest or legacy gift, do contact Ruth at 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!*

Nathan F., a recent grantee working with the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center in Detroit, Michigan, ends his summary of accomplishments with “I am forever grateful to the Amy Adina Schulman Fund for making it possible for me to do this work.”

THE 32ND ANNUAL Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Lecture

Dr. Bernard Avishai presents “What’s Right and What’s Left: The Aftermath of Israel’s Two Elections”



Bernard Avishai ventures where few so far have had the courage or the insight to go.

— Amos Elon, author, Herzl and The Israelis: Founders and Sons, columnist, Haaretz

Expert **Dr. Bernard Avishai** returns to the Amy Adina Memorial Lecture to survey Israel’s current landscape just days after the second Israeli election. A contributing writer to The New Yorker, Harpers, The New York Review of Books, and The Nation, Dr. Avishai, a Professor of Government at Dartmouth College, divides his time between Jerusalem and Hanover, NH.

Sunday, September 22, 2019
The Jewish Center
435 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Doors open at 1:30 p.m.
The lecture, including Q and A, will be followed by a dessert reception.

Please order your tickets early at <https://aasmf2019.eventbrite.com>