

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

Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund

Dearest Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund community, In Jewish numerology the number 18 equals *Chai*, life. This is the 36th anniversary of the Fund's operations, double *Chai*, double life. We had thought that this annual update would be a celebration. But this moment in history is fraught. Although we are in the Season of Light for many cultures with Diwali behind us and Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas ahead, daily headlines make it difficult to see the light, to find hope or the sense that leaders will affirm life.

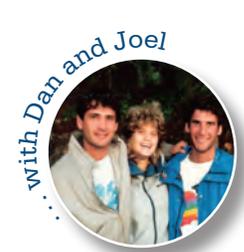
At the time of our beloved daughter and sister's sudden death in 1986, Amy Adina was a twenty-year-old peace activist. Undeterred by the harshness of both the left and the right, Amy Adina worked to build bridges between Jews and Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians, and their activist allies on North American campuses and in Israel. She was driven not by the over simplified angry rhetoric that makes good sound bites, but by the determination that all people are entitled to the rights of dignity, opportunity, and self-determination. Amy Adina was also an absolute pragmatist—a rare quality in today's polarized world where extremes are seen as some form of purity litmus test and compromise for the greater good is seen as capitulation.

In the past 36 years, The Amy Adina Fund has awarded more than 1600 grants totaling approximately one million dollars. Collectively our grantees have continued and amplified Amy Adina's activism on every continent (except Antarctica.) We have supported young people in their endeavors working in environmental justice, education, health care, law, and social services, all with the conviction that serving justice will ultimately foster peace. These grantees continue to give us hope, even in these dark and difficult times. Long after completing their service projects, many of our grantees stay in touch and we see that they incorporate their values into their vocations and avocations.

And you continue to make this possible through your generous annual gifts and bequests, all of which go directly to grantees. The Schulman family continues to take care of all overhead and administration of the Fund. Thank you for the miracle you have wrought.

Strength, health in all your good work in this New Year, and for many years to come. Please feel free to keep in touch. *Todah bishvil ha-kol*, thank you for who you are, for all you do.

Much gratitude and love,
Ruth and the Schulman Family



Amy Adina and the Amy Adina Memorial Fund Grantees exemplify the teaching of the Medieval Rabbinic leader, Rabbi Hillel *“If I am not for me, who is for me; and if I am (only) for myself, what am I. And if not now, when?” Ethics of the Fathers, 1:14*

At this pivotal developmental juncture of their lives, Fund grantees choose to challenge their ideas, ideals, and values. In doing so, they become more sophisticated critical thinkers who look beyond rhetoric and reactivity to understand and impact the complex social, political and ethical challenges of our times.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Habonim-Dror Workshop in Wartime

An Update from the North American Office

After the war broke out, the decision to keep Workshop running was not easy. While some participants were unable to stay, 11 participants remain in Israel.

Currently on *Kibbutz Ein HaShofet*, the Workshopers are safe. They are a resilient group (both those in Israel and those abroad), looking forward to reuniting as soon as they can with the rest of their *kvutza* (group). They run creative activities for *kibbutz* kids, who, because of the war, do not have school or extracurriculars. Workshopers are increasing the *avodah* (work) they do to help keep the *kibbutz* running and continuing Jewish education (*peulot*) and Hebrew lessons (*Ulpan*). Last week, on *Kibbutz Ravid*, the group worked in the fields, and then completed each day with discussions. This week, the Workshopers are beginning to volunteer in Haifa with the children of displaced families.

This work is vital, and while it is undoubtedly hard, these participants are choosing to deepen their connection to—and engagement with—Israeli society.

In the words of Workshopper **Elsbeth L.**, “I’m from Camp Miriam on Gabriola Island, BC, a part of *Habonim* since 2013. Currently, I’m located on *Kibbutz Ein Hashofet*, with my *kvutza*.”

“I woke up on October 7th to discussions of Hamas attacks. We cleaned out the bomb shelters and

still ran some activities for kids on the *kibbutz*. It felt rewarding to bring smiles and distractions for the kids. Not only did they need it, but we did, too. As days went by, social media and news of the horrible unfolding events made it extremely difficult to concentrate.

I went to London. Then I decided I wanted to go back to Israel during this war. Volunteering on *Kibbutz Ravid* has been such an amazing experience. We’re able to provide agricultural labor and support to the *kibbutz*; to me, it’s especially important work to be done now, as so many people have been called into the reserves. With my workshop *kvutza*, I feel we have the responsibility to help in whatever way. It all makes a difference, and I’m so happy to be able to help.”

At Achvat Amim, two Amy Adina Fund Grantees Pursue and Support Justice

Luna L., *Clarifying A Career Path as a Therapist*

Luna, an aspiring therapist, counselor, and spiritual care worker spent time solidifying her professional commitment through her work in Jerusalem. Luna’s goal was to provide training to the Jewish volunteers, engaged in the labor of, as she writes, “education and solidarity.”

“While I was [in Jerusalem], my passion increased tenfold. I was able to witness and support these young adults in processing their complex, powerful emotions and thoughts.”

Through her practice, she was able to realize her aptitude for this career, which greatly boosted her confidence. She is now ready to not only continue developing her career as a therapist, but also feels a new commitment to social justice work in Israel and Palestine, as an expression of her Jewish values.

“Thank you [to the Amy Adina Fund] from the bottom of my heart for allowing this work to be possible. I will never forget the experience I had, and it would not have been possible without your support.”

Miriam P., *Affirming Work at the Intersection of Climate Activism and the Pursuit of Peace*

Miriam worked with “*extremely talented, knowledgeable, and seasoned organizers*” to participate in on-the-ground activism, panels and lessons, and experiential learning. From the Mother’s of Samut Garden Project to working in a local summer camp for children in the South Hebron Hills, her direct hands-on experiences gave her insight into hope and possibility for the future.

“Being able to listen, laugh, cry and work on the land and in-community granted me the opportunity to witness incredible beauty and violence, *samud* (steadfastness), heartbreak, love, and vitriol.”



In addition to sharing these experiences with her community upon return, Miriam is inspired to present the trip to the Institute for Climate and Peace, with which she consults, at their upcoming retreat.

“Thank you so much to the Amy Adina Schulman Fund for making this experience possible.”

PORTLAND, OR, UNITED STATES

Olivia R., *Discovering a Classroom Career Path*

Olivia worked in a first-grade classroom through her internship with Tivnu: Building Justice, Gap Year Program in Portland, Oregon. She writes, “I grew up with Jewish values instilled in me from a young age including *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world), *Chesed* (righteousness), *Kavod* (honor), *Achryut* (accountability), and *Kehillah* (community).” Tivnu enabled Olivia to put these values into practice.

Olivia interned as a teaching assistant in the Boise Eliot/Humboldt Elementary School first-grade classroom. She writes, “I enjoyed my experiences so much that I asked to be at the school for additional time.”

As she prepares to enter her first semester at The University of Massachusetts Amherst, Olivia feels even more certain about her desire to become an elementary school teacher, hoping to complete some of her internship work back in Oregon. Tivnu allowed Olivia to expand her curiosity, commit to her academic goals, and provided her invaluable insight into such essential college skills such as community living.

“Being a member of Tivnu’s 9th Cohort has allowed me to grow as a person immensely and to prepare myself for the future. I could go on for hours about how impactful this experience was for me.”

“Thank you so much to everyone at the Amy Adina Schulman Fund for helping to provide assistance so that I could go on this journey, continue to discover my passions, learn and grow.”

CHIAPAS, MEXICO

Sylvan B., *Advocating for Indigenous Rights*

Inspired by the Zapatista indigenous justice movement of the mid-1990s, **Sylvan** traveled to its birthplace in Chiapas, Mexico. Working with Otros Mundos collective in Chiapas, Sylvan volunteered by supporting self-sufficiency projects which built connections between ecological, political, and indigenous activism.

Volunteering on-the-ground, Sylvan lived in “a housing community for international activists, [spending] my days in light filled, bioconstruction domes nestled in a verdant mountainscape.”

On a trip to Acteal, site of the 1997 massacre, Sylvan studied energy self-production by indigenous people as a response to political violence. Sylvan studied how energy “self-production . . . plays an instrumental role in the ability for farm workers and indigenous communities to resist and survive amidst the predatory tactics of [government] and energy companies.” Through volunteering with Otros Mundos, Sylvan collaborated on a biodigester system, which supports grassroots indigenous self-control over organic agriculture and green technology projects. Sylvan wore many hats— from participating in an international meeting in Guatemala to supporting Otros Mundos communications and planning and executing a large national convention against corporate mining on indigenous lands.

CAMBODIA

Cecilia D., Discovering Her Own Leadership Abilities While Teaching in Cambodia

Cecilia D., third year at Northeastern University, traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for a six-month internship with the Harpswell Foundation women's leadership program. At the program, Cecilia worked as a teacher, mentor, friend, and sister, leading two core classes in analytical writing and job skills, as well as two critical thinking sessions per week. There, she and her students analyzed topics from pop-culture to politics, all while Cecilia aided in their English comprehension. Through the Harpswell Foundation program, Cecilia took trips beyond the capital, visiting Cambodia's national parks and local villages with her students. As she reflected on her growth in confidence through this trip for *Northeastern Global News*:

"I... can look introspectively and think, "OK, if I can pick up and move across the world and form a life here, and do this role, I can rely on myself that I will be able to pick myself up and find myself in any role in any space." Initially nervous to travel so far from home, she adds, "I will hold this experience very close to my heart for the rest of my life. It's absolutely priceless to me, and I'm so glad I made this decision."

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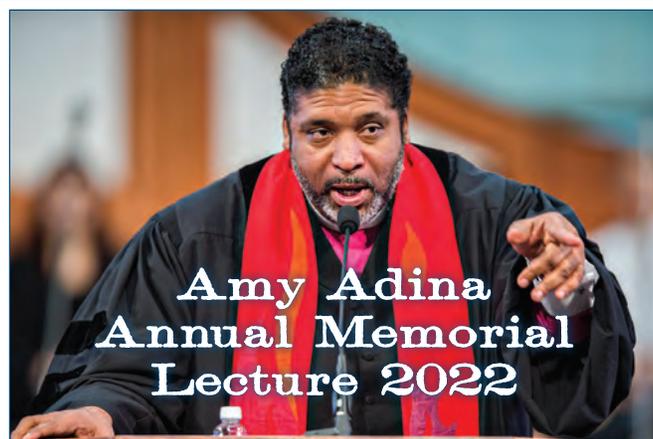
The Fund accepts employer matching gifts, as well as direct IRA donations and bequests. 100% of your contributions go to support AASMF grantees.

We appreciate any gift to the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund that is meaningful to you. Much thanks for all your moral and financial support.

Please share the Fund's work and our website with young people who might be interested in applying for a grant.

The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund and the Schulman family are saddened to announce the death of our inaugural lecturer, Dr. Alice Shalvi.

Alice remained a close friend and regular supporter of the Fund. As the founder of Pelech, a progressive religious school for girls, Dr. Shalvi recognized that investing in young people would reap benefits for generations. And she was right. The professions of Pelech alumni include judges, professors, curators, and doctors, to name a few. These women are leaders in their respective fields because Alice helped break the glass ceiling within the orthodoxy and beyond.



The Very Reverend Bishop William Barber II

An enthusiastic audience of more than 500 people attended as Bishop Barber delivered "A Call to Action." The rapt attendees listened as he articulated the long history of Black and Jewish activists working together in pursuit of equality, justice, and progress in this country. His talk was a reminder that economic, social, and political divides can and must be bridged in pursuit of the common good. To listen to his talk, please visit the link on the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund website.

Look for information about the 2024 Annual Memorial Lecture later in the winter.