

All the world is a narrow bridge, but the essence is not to fear.

## Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund

Dear Friends,

As we have entered the new Jewish year 5786, and approach 2025, we look back on the amazing impact that the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund has had since it was established in 1987, shortly after our beloved daughter and sister unexpectedly died at age 20. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded grants to more than 1,650 young individuals looking to make the world a better place. During this Season of Gratitude and Light, as our communities celebrate Chanukah, Christmas, Diwali, and Kwanzaa, we at the Amy Adina Fund look to our young people to illuminate the path forward toward *Tikkun Olam*, repair of the world.

We created the Fund to find solace—to keep Amy Adina's values alive. The vision, commitment, and problem-solving capacity of our young grantees offers hope, and even optimism during challenging times. The accomplishments of Amy Adina Fund grantees have been felt across the globe. Grantees have leveraged and expanded their practical and professional skills in many sectors, touching thousands of people in areas ranging from education, healthcare, environmental justice, affordable housing, civil rights, the arts, and so much more.

As I turn 91 this year, I reflect on the Jewish concept of *Mi' Dor L'Dor*, from generation to generation. I was a member of Habonim Dror's 3rd Workshop in Israel in 1953. Because of this transformative experience, I sent Amy Adina to Habonim Camp Galil in Pennsylvania and there, in 1984, she became a member of the 34th Workshop in Israel. Habonim Dror instilled in Amy Adina a commitment to calling out injustice and to activism on campus and in her community. Although Amy Adina died from a brain aneurysm just before her 21st birthday, I know if she could see how much has been accomplished in her name, that she, as a very strong progressive activist, would be grateful to know her values are alive. Thank you for your ongoing support in our pursuit of *Tikkun Olam*.

The last time Mel and I saw Amy Adina, we attended High Holiday Services together and she taught us the song that is now our Fund's motto, *Kol Ha'Olam Kulo Geshet Tsar Me'od, V'ha Ikar Lo Lefa'ched*, "All the world is a narrow bridge, but the essence is not to fear". I do not know how this world and our environment, both literally on fire, will finally find a just equilibrium, but I do know that the solutions rest in the hands of the committed young grantees in our communities. Hopefully, together we will continue to invest in them on this shared journey.

Strength and health in the years to come.

*B'Shalom*—In Peace,

Ruth and the entire 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



### **A UNIQUE RABBI CREATES CONNECTION AND SPACE, NEW YORK, NY**

Rabbi Lauren Tuchman, one of this year’s grantees, is likely the first blind woman in the world to enter the rabbinate, ordained in 2018 by the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is also the first Amy Adina Schulman Fund grantee who is not a student but rather is developing a program to teach skills to young students entitled **“Disability Wisdom As Soul Care.”**

“Through this program I will host learning spaces that center on disability experiences and equip participants with Jewish spiritual wisdom and tools for approaching social change work, nourishing spiritual practice, and providing community and accountability. This type of program and spiritual community and practice has not yet existed. By teaching these spiritual tools, disabled participants will have new wells of inspiration, deeper connections to Jewish faith and community, and renewed groundedness in the fight for disability justice.”

## **Amy Adina Annual Memorial Lecture 2025**

Please note that our Annual Lecture will be held in the winter of 2025. You will receive details as soon as they are available.

The Schulman family pays all Fund expenses.  
100% of all contributions go directly to grantees.

### **ADJUSTING TO A NEW REALITY AFTER OCTOBER 7TH, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL**

Daria L-B volunteered for **“Mechinat Bina**, a program rooted in social action—to advance democracy, pluralism, and justice in Israel through learning, action, and community building.” After an immersive preparatory month about her home base, Shapira, a “neighborhood with high levels of poverty, homelessness, and addiction,” but also perhaps the “most politically, linguistically, and socioeconomically diverse neighborhood in Tel Aviv,” Daria chose to work with Shapira’s community of refugees, asylum seekers, and particularly status-less women. “The more I learned about Shapira, the more I fell in love with its strong drive for community. The seminar(s) fascinated me, as migration activism is a huge passion of mine.”

The preparation helped Daria become comfortable in Shapira “working to support women by providing early childhood programs.” During the early training and preparation, Daria and her cohort were camping and studying and something completely extraordinary happened. “That evening the first drops of rain hit the ground. And the rainstorm started pouring; rain in Israel in August?? We gathered round and started singing. That moment marked the first of many obstacles we would encounter. It was the moment that we realized our perseverance would remain through rain or shine.”

“I couldn’t wait to start giving to the [Shapira] community. But instead, we were awakened at 6:30am by sirens on October 7th. After the first couple of sirens, we went back upstairs but the rocket fire only grew stronger. We heard loud booms and understood that rocket shrapnel had fallen around us. The news began reporting the horrors unfolding around the Gaza envelope. Luckily a friend’s parent rushed to evacuate us north. After a couple days, I was evacuated farther north to my aunt’s kibbutz. Waking up every day filled with fear and mourning, I felt helpless.”



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.

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

[www.AmyAdinaSchulmanFund.org](http://www.AmyAdinaSchulmanFund.org)

With the country in lockdown and her program postponed, Daria kept herself busy on the kibbutz by taking care of children and pets of families in upheaval.



Finally, two weeks later her program restarted, and Daria returned to an altered Tel Aviv and Shapira. “The first day I came back to Mechina was a day that changed my life. Not only did I discover a resilience and bravery in myself,

returning to an area still under heavy rocket fire, but that was the day that I was assigned to work at the Orchid (We called it the Orchi) Hotel—a beautiful beachfront hotel in Tel Aviv...It was filled with children running around and their hysterical parents. There were soldiers with big guns holding babies to give parents a break...the scene looked dystopian.”

“As we came in, more and more families were moving into the hotel...unsure for how long. My job was to create activities for the children and to help them feel safe enough to come out of their rooms. The first weeks were challenging, hard to gain both the kids and parents’ trust. We worked long hours, and the hotel was getting fuller and fuller...But each day the children grew to trust me, and the parents opened up about the struggles they were facing. No matter how hard and long the days were, I was sad when the day ended and couldn’t wait to start again the next morning when I was greeted with smiles and hugs.”

“The volunteer organizer called me and four friends over and told us that we had to start an educational structure for the children. I was assigned to pre-school on Thursday and had to have a classroom ready before the next week began.” After being assigned a room with no walls, Daria went to hotel administration and begged for a space with walls and a door in which she set up a proper pre-school classroom and was able to provide the much welcome safe space for children and their families. “In the mornings the kids would wait for me in the lobby...and we would run to class, that only weeks before they had hated going into and shout ‘We’re going to our gan (pre-school).

We’re going to see our friends. I was so proud to see the development in the children and how our Gan Orchi had become truly theirs. The kids taught me to be resilient and to find happiness even in times of hardship.”

Daria also continued to volunteer in the Shapira neighborhood. “I am so grateful that I was allowed to volunteer at the Orchi... and I thank the Fund again for your support. I know I will keep all of the families and volunteers from the Orchi, and the lessons they taught me, with me.”

### HOUSING JUSTICE IN MOROCCO

Ella K. spent her summer in Morocco doing research at the consulting firm **Impact Consulting Network**, a social venture/impact investment group that attempts to leverage private capital to invest in initiatives that will have a lasting positive social impact. Ella explored the “potential financial and social returns of real estate investment in the Maghreb Region for folks interested in strategic impact investing.” Staying with her grandparents, Ella found deep connections and inspiration for her project. *Mi’Dor L’Dor*. Ella’s grandparents helped her understand day-to-day life in multiple Moroccan cities and gave her the opportunity to improve her French. Over the course of her internship, Ella utilized both primary and secondary sources to explore multiple investment strategies in Morocco and assess their social benefits. “... My research will be presented in Nairobi, Kenya at the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance November 2024 Conference themed ‘Catalyzing Africa’s Sustainable Growth’ attended by hundreds of industry leaders and stakeholders.”





## FOSTERING HEALTHY MASCULINITY IN CABARETE, DR



Before arriving at the **DREAM Project** in Cabarete, Dominican Republic, Coltrane J., a PILA (Princeton in Latin America) Fellow, completed a transcontinental swim from Turkey to the Dardanelles Strait representing the Against Malaria Foundation. This charity raises money and provides lifesaving anti-malarial bed nets in severely affected countries.

“Arriving at the Dream Project in Cabarete, the first week was a week of orientation and the staff did an excellent job of helping me acclimate to the local area. I am training to become the coordinator of *Luchadores Por el Cambio*, one of three programs belonging to the Department of Leadership and Youth Development, an all-male group that seeks to promote healthy lives in young men and eliminate toxic masculinity (machismo), replacing it with the concept of positive masculinity through specifically designed activities and methodology. The goal of the program is to teach young men to exercise healthy masculinity, maintain relationships founded in equality, prepare to be active fathers in their potential future families, take care of their sexual health, and to have respect for all human beings.”

“While I had only just completed one week of orientation, it was exciting and inspiring to see the enthusiasm of all the conference participants and their desire to make a change in their respective communities. I am completing an [additional] orientation specific to my department and program as I transition to assume the role of Program Coordinator. I look forward to sharing additional reports throughout the year and look forward to our future correspondence.”

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AMY ADINA FUND GRANTEES

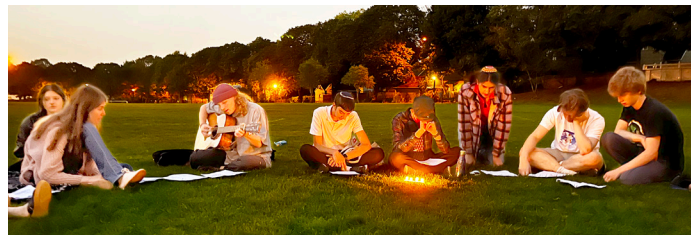
To make a gift using a credit card or PayPal,  
click the donate button on our website.

International contributors: Please donate using our  
website. AASMF cannot accept checks from non-U.S. banks.

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.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE IN PORTLAND, OR



Sasha R. interned with **Tivnu: Building Justice**, an intensive 9-month program of internships, education, communal living, and personal development. She worked at two internship sites, each two days a week, one as part of a construction crew, the other interning with **Street Roots**, a street newspaper and advocacy hub for unhoused Portlanders.

“...I am an intern at Street Roots, Portland’s street-newspaper where I create meaningful relationships with SR’s unhoused vendors and get them published in the paper. I usually work the front desk, selling the paper to vendors and helping them with different problems that arise. If they’re having a conflict with another vendor, I am called to help. When I’m not at the front desk, I staff the coffee station where I pour coffee and hand out hygiene supplies... This might sound like an easy role, but I’ve actually found it to be the most difficult, but the one I learn from the most. Many of our vendors are living on the streets. All are experiencing homelessness or poverty in one form or another. The daily conflicts they face, the dehumanization from society, the disregard from the government, all come bubbling to the surface as they sip their coffee, and we chat.”

“As a generally proactive person, I have learned that the most helpful thing I can do is listen. Our vendors often feel powerless and just having someone listen and care can be meaningful. I also write vendor profiles which are published in Street Roots. Vendors often cry when I show them what I wrote about them, because vendor profiles are another way to help disenfranchised voices be heard in a society that tries to ignore them.”

“My other internship is at **Tivnu Construction** where I work with power tools helping to build tiny houses, picnic tables, fences, and bookshelves for Portland’s community of people experiencing homelessness. I was talking with a homeless person and he explained to me a reason I hadn’t really understood - that living on the streets puts people’s bodies and minds into a state of emergency and they are often unable to think more than a day into the future. We provide people with stability by beautifying their space and giving them things beyond their basic needs.”