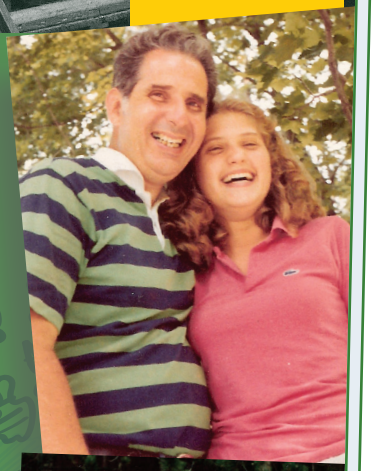
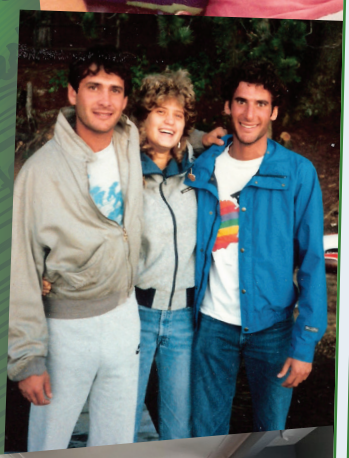
All the world is a narrow bridge, but the essence is not to fear.

Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund





Dear Family, Friends, and Community,

These are challenging times. Each day one can be overwhelmed by the news reports of democracies under assault, environmental protections being threatened, and an uncertain future for many peoples. As we enter this Season of Light, celebrating Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa, it is now more than ever that we are inspired and encouraged by the vision and grit of the young people supported by the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund. Their determination to work, despite social, political, and cultural upheaval, in fields including environmental justice, education, health care, housing, law, and social services—serves as a reminder that the torch of justice continues to be carried by our willing and capable grantees.

The last time that we saw our beloved daughter, sister, and friend, Amy Adina, was during the High Holidays in 1986. At that time, she taught us a song that would become the Fund's motto: "All the world is a narrow bridge, but the essence is not to fear." In today's climate, another well-known Jewish idiom is also appropriate: "While you do not need to complete the endeavor, it remains incumbent upon you to continue the work."

It has been nearly 40 years since we lost Amy Adina. When we created the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund in her memory, we did not imagine that her spirit and progressive values would be amplified by nearly 1700 grantees striving to create a more just, equitable, and sustainable world, working across the globe, in South East Asia, the Middle East, South and Central America and even back home in the United States.

Amy Adina's memory has been and continues to be a blessing and a call to action. Her values live onward.

Like our beloved daughter, the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund grantees remind us to keep going. And with your ongoing support, we will continue to do so.

B'Shalom—In Peace,
Ruth and the entire Schulman Family

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. We believe she would welcome the Fund's recognition of today's demands of these pursuits on the global stage, as the Fund awards grants to young activists from North America who work here and around the world.

FINDING ONESELF WHILE SERVING COMMUNITY IN PORTLAND, OREGON

Sebastian A. spent a gap year at the TIVNU program in Portland.

Tivnu brings together young adults… to learn, serve, and grow… it truly changed my life. Thanks to the generous support of the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund, I was able to be part of this experience, and I'm deeply grateful for the chance to share what it meant to me.

During my time at Tivnu, I worked on a wide range of service projects focused on supporting people experiencing homelessness. Much of our work centered on construction and carpentry—building tiny homes in transitional villages, repairing fences, and creating storage sheds. Before this year, the most I had built was a simple birdhouse, so learning to use power tools, measure lumber, and troubleshoot on a job site was both challenging and empowering. There was something profoundly moving about seeing a project through from start to finish, knowing the walls we raised offered safety and dignity to people who desperately needed it. Each completed project filled me with pride and the sense that I was contributing to something real.

Along with construction, we took on odd jobs around the city, painting community spaces and lending a hand wherever we were needed. These experiences deepened my understanding of the complexities of homelessness and showed me how small, consistent acts of service truly add up. I learned that showing up, even for the less glamorous tasks, can matter just as much as any grand gesture.

Beyond the physical work, Tivnu gave me space to grow personally and spiritually. Through weekly discussions I developed a deeper understanding of Judaism, ethics, and my own moral compass. My mentors created an environment where curiosity was encouraged and every voice was valued, helping me shape an authentic and lasting relationship with Judaism.

Looking back, Tivnu was truly transformative. I left with new skills, a stronger sense of purpose, and a clearer vision of how I want to contribute to the world. None of this would have been possible without your support.

Thank you for helping me build not just homes, but the foundation of the person I'm becoming.

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

MAKING AN IMPACT—WEARING MULTIPLE HATS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

While a Princeton in Latin America Fellow (PILA), Ava L.'s work put her outside her professional comfort zone, working in adult education in addition to youth education. She met the challenges, expanding both her understanding of the demands of being an educator and administrator and discovered her own capacity to rise to the unexpected. Ava L. involved both young students and adult learners in thinking about and designing their curricula.

My experience with the DREAM Project in Cabarete, Dominican Republic was a wonderful adventure. I served as a Montessori Academy Fellow, but worked mainly in the STEAM classroom, where I designed and implemented experiential learning lessons to teach the scientific method and natural world. I worked with disadvantaged students ages three to fourteen in "Club de Ciencias," science club, and also taught English to primary students. Outside the classroom, I collaborated with the IT specialist on Monitoring & Evaluation efforts for 700+ participants in literacy and Montessori programs. During the summer, I organized and led DREAM's pilot community English class, which was both a highlight and a challenge.

Professionally, my year with DREAM offered immense growth. I loved working with educators and administrators, and my coworkers were a huge part of what made my experience positive, even when I felt overwhelmed. This year redefined what it means to spend time in a meaningful way. It made me rethink my ideas of productivity and "doing good work." I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that this year profoundly changed me.

As for what's next, I'm keeping up my Spanish by volunteering with a healthcare program serving the Latino community in Indianapolis and hope to find a job using Spanish, ideally in nonprofits focused on education, immigration, or justice.

Thank you to the Amy Adina Memorial Fund for making this life-changing year possible!

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

GRANTEE BEARS WITNESS TO COLLECTIVE TRAUMA AND RELIEF IN ISRAEL

Micaela H., working as a Yahel for Social Change Fellow, experienced the power of being in Hostage Square and watching as the last October 7th living hostages were released. Her descriptions of collective relief allowed her to feel she was a part of something greater than herself.

Micaela's work with Yahel, living and working in economically distressed communities, has had a profound impact on her sense of purpose and privilege.

...My volunteer work involved community building, and educational initiatives across cities in Israel such as Rishon LeZion, Lod, and Haifa. Investing time and energy with people of all ages in community centers, schools, and non-profits, is the main purpose of this fellowship.

I live in Ramat Eliyahu, a low socioeconomic neighborhood where about 40% of the population are Ethiopian immigrants with a recent influx of orthodox Jewish families. This unique area has started to grow on me. The streets and parks are lively with children laughing outside my apartment and Hebrew music blaring from top floors and warm friendly faces wherever I walk.

I teach English in two elementary schools and also volunteer at a moadonit, an afterschool program. The kids are so full of energy, and every day feels full. I know we are planting seeds in their lives to make the world a better place. I am overwhelmed with gratitude to be a small piece of the puzzle working toward the moral principle that all people deserve equal rights and opportunity for a better life.

...A huge thank you to ... the Fund and to Amy Adina who dedicated her life to civil rights and peace and to further her aspirations to "continue to try to make the world a better place for all".

CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION IN COSTA RICA

PILA Fellow, Sydney M. clarified her career trajectory based on her lived experiences at Osa Conservation.

When I reflect on my Princeton in Latin America Fellowship, supported by the Amy Adina Schulman Fund, I am struck by how profoundly it shaped both my professional trajectory and personal outlook on conservation. I was placed with Osa Conservation in southern Costa Rica, where I served as the Landscape Migratory Bird Monitoring Fellow. Over six months, I designed a long-term study to monitor bird communities along the AmistOsa Biological Corridor—a conservation initiative linking the lowland rainforests of the Osa Peninsula with the highland forests of La Amistad International Park. This "living bridge" is essential for preserving biodiversity, allowing species to move and adapt amid climate change and habitat loss. By examining how bird communities shift across the corridor, our research provides vital insight into ecosystem change in one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth.

Most days began before sunrise, with the first bird calls breaking the forest's silence. I conducted more than 60 point-count surveys across the corridor and ultimately documented over 600 bird species, both resident and migratory. This pilot study revealed striking differences in species composition across elevations, underscoring the importance of connectivity in maintaining diversity. I am currently preparing a manusript to publish our findings—work I hope will contribute to scientific understanding and practical conservation in Costa Rica.

Beyond the science, what made this experience transformative was witnessing conservation in action across Central America. Costa Rica is known as a global leader in conservation, and I saw firsthand how nonprofit organizations like Osa Conservation conduct innovative, high-impact research while staying deeply engaged with local communities. Collaborating with colleagues, local birding groups, and campus visitors showed me the power of partnerships in advancing conservation. This shifted my career vision toward nonprofit conservation science—a path I had not fully considered before.

The fellowship pushed me to grow personally and professionally. Conducting research in remote rainforests required flexibility and resilience: navigating unpredictable weather, managing equipment failures, and troubleshooting field challenges. These experiences strengthened my patience, problem-solving abilities, and perseverance.

Since completing my placement, I have applied these skills with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and the Intermountain Bird Observatory. Looking ahead, I plan to pursue a graduate degree with the long-term goal of working for a nonprofit integrating research with community-driven conservation. Above all, I carry with me the friendships, the unforgettable experience of living in the Osa Peninsula, and the lasting impact of this fellowship.

INTEGRATING DIVERSE FIELDS INTO A CLEAR PATH

Geffen W. spent the fall 2025 semester at the School for Field Studies' Center for Mekong Ecologies in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

This past fall I lived, worked, and learned at the Mekong Center for Environmental Justice in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The prospect of hands-on fieldwork with both animals and people drew me to the program and ultimately solidified my desire to work at the intersection of environmental conservation and community development. My main goal was to deepen my understanding of the conservation sector and explore related professional paths—and I accomplished that and far more.

I gained firsthand insight into how bureaucratic systems in Cambodia have evolved and how they continue to shape people's lives. Hearing directly from families about government and corporate development displacing communities and undermining subsistence livelihoods reshaped my understanding of environmental justice. These issues became not distant concepts, but lived realities with direct implications for conservation work worldwide.

Our travels throughout Cambodia further highlighted these dynamics. We visited communities confronting land-use change, protected forests, and regions where conservation and development pressures collide. At Jahoo—an Indigenous-led protected area and one of the first to obtain Indigenous Land Title—we saw how official recognition enabled a return to traditional swidden agriculture and an escape from the debt-driven boom-crop cycle. We also visited hydropower dams that advertise environmental benefits while obscuring the displacement of more than 3,000 people and the division of entire villages.

My volunteer work on the Tonle Sap Lake, the largest body of fresh water in South East Asia, placed me at the intersection of ecological research, daily survival, and the complicated pressures shaping life on the lake. In floating and stilted communities, I documented how human-waste systems function in environments built directly over the water. Through interviews and observational mapping, I saw how sanitation practices, contamination, and health risks shift alongside declining fisheries and tightening economic realities. These insights and our data collection will help local NGOs advocate for safer water quality and practical, community-driven interventions.

I also conducted directed research on water snakes with a peer and our Primary Investigator. We collected morphometric data from hundreds of snakes, spoke with fishermen and market traders, and tracked species composition, harvest trends, and the economic dependence many families have on the snake trade. Because this trade often represents a livelihood of last resort, understanding its dynamics is essential for both conservation and human well-being. Our findings strengthen a critical dataset that will guide future management and sustainable alternatives.

My most meaningful accomplishments included developing strong field skills, learning to work through uncertainty, and gaining a deeper understanding of how conservation, poverty, and governance collide. I met my goals academically and personally, and our team provided updated data that will inform community decisions and future research.

I was surrounded by peers and educators making the most of their time and resources, whose dedication continually energized me. I'll also admit that I was initially intimidated to learn that all five other students in my cohort were women, fearing we wouldn't connect. That concern was unfounded. They quickly became my support systems, some of the smartest, kindest, and most driven people I have met. They encouraged me, pushed me, and helped me see my own potential. I am leaving Cambodia with the sisters I didn't know I needed.

My time in Cambodia has profoundly shaped how I imagine my future and deepened my understanding of environmental justice in practice.

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, or contributing from your IRA, or a bequest or legacy gift, contact Ruth at schulman.ruth@gmail.com. Thank you for continuing to sustain and support the Fund's work. A year of light, hope, health, and good deeds to you as we continue onward!