Dear Friends,

For A Wider Bridge, 2022 came in like a lamb and out like a lion. The pandemic waned. We held missions and programs in person. We supported our Israeli partners in their tremendous work. They, in turn, were working with a very supportive government to advance the unfinished business of LGBTQ equality in Israel. We led three missions to Israel, and a Mission to America for Israeli LGBTQ leaders.

Then everything changed.

The November 2022 election in Israel brought several leaders into government who stand firmly in opposition to LGBTQ equality – and the ground shifted beneath the feet of our Israeli partners. A Wider Bridge has continued to hold our Israeli family close as they’ve navigated waters that changed from calm to stormy.

Throughout the year, our network has been speaking actively and authentically about the Israeli LGBTQ community, and about the scourge of LGBTQphobia and antisemitism in North America and around the world.

A Wider Bridge messages and programs have reached many thousands. We helped to:

- Build safe spaces for LGBTQ supporters of Israel without sacrificing any aspect of their identity
- Create close bonds between the Israeli and North American LGBTQ communities
- Expand equality in Israel through AWB Impact Grants that advance civil rights, promote acceptance, and create community
- Fight antisemitism and take a stand for LGBTQ rights

In these pages, you will see stories, images, and numbers that show our impact in the world. You’ll also meet a few of the 100 North American leaders who participated in our 2022 missions, and read about what they’ve done.

Thank you to our board, donors, alums, partners, and participants who continue to take A Wider Bridge from strength to strength. You make all of this possible.

Deep appreciation to Chair Emeritus Alan Schwartz, who guided A Wider Bridge through the last seven years – including the pandemic years – with vision, passion, and courage.

Andy Austin
Chair of the Board

Ethan Felson
Executive Director
When the mayor of West Hollywood returned from our June mission, she spoke about her experience at a conference on antisemitism. She later related the mission to her support for the city council’s adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Association definition of antisemitism.

WDG, the only independent LGBTQ news site in Israel, and The Washington Blade, the oldest LGBTQ newspaper in the U.S., are now in partnership, thanks to A Wider Bridge. We helped connect journalists participating in our Mission to Israel and Mission to America. Now, important news stories about the Israeli LGBTQ community are being read in the U.S. – and vice versa.

A Wider Bridge has formed an important partnership with LGBTQ Victory Fund and LGBTQ Victory Institute. Victory supports LGBTQ candidates at all levels of government, many of whom are potential mission participants. And we have formed a partnership with the Aguda in Israel to support their work with LGBTQ candidates.
I think A Wider Bridge has grown so wonderfully, embracing, with such authenticity and validity. And that's wonderful for all of us. We all want a wider community. We all want to feel that there is a bridge to understanding each other, so I like A Wider Bridge very much."

Roselyne “Cissie” Swig

I believe that the support that we get from A Wider Bridge is crucial in continuing some of the most vulnerable programs that are not funded anywhere else and would not exist were it not for A Wider Bridge.”

Nurit Shein

A Wider Bridge focuses on the LGBTQ+ in Israel, and it’s really important to stress the egalitarianism, equality, and pluralism that exist in Israel.”

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
“While on my A Wider Bridge mission, I kept thinking about the connection here that I can make between LGBTQ folks in the States and people in Israel.”

Nate Looney

“A Wider Bridge is committed to building relationships between our two communities and our two countries, so thank you for that.”

Rep. David Cicilline

“A Wider Bridge allows people from all backgrounds to come together and create a world of acceptance and tolerance. Thanks to their missions, hundreds of community leaders are now connected to the vibrant Israeli LGBTQ community.”

Rabbi Denise Eger
We were excited to return to Israel – after two long pandemic years – with dozens of LGBTQ leaders. We introduced them to Israeli culture, history, and the amazing LGBTQ leaders who are working to build an even more inclusive Israel.

"It felt like a true people to people experience, like we were meeting ‘our’ people in Israel. For me, meeting with the folks who work for LGBTQ equality in religious communities felt particularly special because I come from a religious community here.”

Larry Sandigo

"I thought this mission was really great. I came in with little knowledge and came out with much more confidence to speak to people on both sides of the conflict. Seeing the work of the LGBTQ activists, the work of the Knesset, and learning about the struggles that continue, will be useful in my own work.”

Rep. Brianna Titone
"I had an absolutely incredible, life-changing experience on the trip. I learned so much, met so many outstanding people, and truly feel like a more whole person since my travels. I loved everyone’s ability to ask hard questions, engage each other with kindness and curiosity, and speak to the work that matters so much to all of us."

Gabriella Potter

"An extraordinary opportunity to go beyond the headlines and meet the diverse peoples giving life to the Middle East’s most dynamic LGBT community."

Steve Hansen
The Jewish community in America has figured out something that we have yet to learn – how to welcome queer people and how to integrate queer identities into Jewish identities. But you have a lot to learn from us – how to be complete, full, and secure in your Jewishness. We have a lot to learn from each other, and I am excited to be here and talk with you about it.”

Rotem Sorek, CEO, Ma’avarim

“The wider bridges that are being created between the Israeli and the Jewish American LGBTQ communities need friendships and partnerships. Despite the challenging times, we kept the connection between us. This is incredible for us.”

Ofer Newman, CEO, IGY
We brought 16 Israeli LGBTQ leaders to New York and Washington, DC – deepening our bonds, and reaching a wide audience of LGBTQ leaders in America. Through shared experiences and meaningful encounters, the mission built connections between the Israeli LGBTQ community and American, Jewish, progressive, and LGBTQ communities.
OUR EVENTS

Like many others, we started the year virtually, continuing our “A Wider Lens” series. Later in 2022 we finally got the chance to meet and celebrate Pride in person nationwide.

We couldn’t remain silent. In April, we hosted a special event about the war in Ukraine and ways to help.

More than 6,000 people watched the important conversation we had with the people behind the film “Transkids.”

Finally meeting in person! In May, we marched together with other LGBTQ Jewish organizations in the “Celebrate Israel Parade.”

We broadcast live from the Pride March in Jerusalem for the first time. Almost 25,000 have watched the stream!
It has already become a tradition. More than 8,000 people joined our Live from Tel Aviv Pride annual event.

Pride in NY! On a beautiful June evening, we hosted a special Pride reception together with the Israeli Consulate in New York.

Pride in DC! We were back in Washington, DC, celebrating Pride with the Israel Embassy and many friends and alums.

Pride in the Living Room brought together our friends from The Aguda and many of our New York alums. Together we shared our personal stories and celebrated Pride.
For the Israeli LGBTQ community, 2022 was no ordinary year. It began with record government funding and ended with a new government that elevated leaders who stand in vocal opposition to LGBTQ inclusion.

A Wider Bridge Impact Grants build equality in Israel by providing vital funds to Israeli LGBTQ organizations – advancing civil rights, trans inclusion, community centers, help lines, health care, housing, families, and education. Now more than ever, AWB Impact Grants are helping our Israeli LGBTQ family.

- The Aguda - The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel
- Bat-Kol
- Beit Issie Shapiro
- The Communities House
- The Different House - Albeit Almuhtalef
- Havruta - Religious Gays
- Hoshen
- IGY - Israel LGBTQ Youth
- Israel Aids Task Force
- Jerusalem Open House
- LGBT Sports Club, Israel
- LGBTech
- Ma’avarim - Israeli Trans Community
- OTOT - Beit Dror
- Pride of Lionesses
- Pride House of Be’er Sheva and the South
- Shoval
- Tehila
- TLVfest - The Tel Aviv International LGBTQ+ Film Festival
- Trans Israel NGO
For the first time this year, we have a paid employee, which couldn’t have been possible without A Wider Bridge’s resources. One of the parts of living in the south of Israel is providing for yourself. Being able to provide one of my community members a paid position to do what we are already doing is inconceivable, and I am so very grateful for that.”

Ariella Menaker, Chairperson, Pride House of Be’er Sheva and the South

“A Wider Bridge Impact Grant helped us achieve amazing things!

Most of all, it helped us transform our digital media into a powerful tool to educate about LGBTQ issues, spread our message and reach an incredible number of people.

In today’s reality in Israel, we must take this year to grow and to get stronger and better.

We are truly scared that this will be the last year the Ministry of Education funds our activities in schools. As we all know, LGBTQ issues in education and education for tolerance are one of the biggest targets right now.

I know you’re hugging us from the States, and we have much to learn from you. We see your support on social media, and we know that you are standing with us. It’s heartwarming and not being taken for granted.”

CEO from one of the Israeli LGBTQ organizations
The Jewish Inclusive Pride Flag made it to new places, states, and countries in 2022. It was proudly waved from Canada to England, Brazil to Australia, from people’s balconies, in offices, community centers, and synagogues, and as part of the biggest Pride marches.
MOBILIZATION

In 2022, we were more vocal than ever. Reproductive rights, trans rights, LGBTQ rights, Jewish rights – we were there to protect those in need and show solidarity with those in danger. The Beyond the Bridge Network of AWB mission alums made their voices heard on social media, in op-eds, and in forums. In every venue, we pushed back against antisemitism and LGBTQphobia in all their forms.
Total Revenue
$1,859,549

Total Expenses
$1,859,549

* In 2022, AWB budgeted to release some prior year surplus from missions canceled due to COVID
Individual Support

**Gesher Platina ($25K+)**
Alan Schwartz and Michael Sarid

**Gesher Zahav ($10K-$24.9K)**
Andy Austin and Michael Sonberg
Barry Blecher
Kyle Ferrai
Friend Family Philanthropic Fund
James Rushing
Jeffrey Schoenfeld and Matt Holbein
Jane and Stuart Weitzman

**Gesher Adom ($5K-$9.9K)**
Dr. Dana Beyer
Louise and Robert A. Cohen
Ethan Felson and Daniel Schapira
Ellen and Barry Finestone
Jeanette and Eli Reinhard
David Hochberg
David Levine
Bruce Maxwell
Roselyne Chroman Swig
Rachel Wahba

**Gesher Katom ($2.5K-$4.9K)**
Jeremy Burton
Cary Davidson
Rabbi Denise Eger and Rabbi Eleanor Steinman
Barbara and Jeffrey Farber
Amy and Mort Friedkin
Christian Fuscario and Aaron Williams
Tyler Gregory
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Sam Picciotto
Lisa and Steven Rudner
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Fred Steiner
Drew Tabatchnick and Ira Baer
Laura Talmus and Ace Smith
Paul Waimberg

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Rev. Denyse Barnes
Rabbi Barry Block
Guy Block and Billie Parker
Zack and Ronit Bodner
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Cindy Brown
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**Under $10,000**
Congregation Emanu-El
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Israel on Campus Coalition
JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa
The Isidore Grossman Foundation, Inc.
Jim Joseph Foundation
Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union
Taube Family Foundation

**Anonymous (NYC Area)**
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies
Diane and Guillford Glazer Foundation
Klarman Family Foundation
One8 Foundation
Paul E. Singer Charitable Fund

**Anonymous (Bay Area)**
The Jewish Federation of Broward County
Libitzky Family Foundation
The Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation

**Anonymous (NYC Area)**
The Margaret and Daniel Loeb Foundation

**Institutional Support**

**$100,000+**
Anonymous (NYC Area)
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies
Diane and Guillford Glazer Foundation
Klarman Family Foundation
One8 Foundation
Paul E. Singer Charitable Fund

**$50,000 – $99,999**
GLBT Fund of America of the Philadelphia Foundation
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Koret Foundation
Morningstar Philanthropic Fund

**$25,000 – $49,999**
Anonymous (Bay Area)
Anonymous (NYC Area)
The Margaret and Daniel Loeb Foundation

**$10,000 - $24,999**
The Jewish Federation of Broward County
The Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation

**Under $10,000**
Congregation Emanu-El
Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Israel on Campus Coalition
JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa
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