Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that we share with you A Wider Bridge’s annual report as we embark on our 10th anniversary year.

2020 was a year of challenges – from Covid 19 to rising anti-Semitism – and opportunities as we expanded our reach and impact in the LGBTQ and progressive worlds.

The year started with a spate of antisemitic incidents around the country – and AWB rose to that challenge – mobilizing our #BridgeOverHate campaign that brought our AWB Mission alumni, stakeholders, and community members to fight back against antisemitism. Their posts received thousands of likes on social media. During a time when Jews everywhere felt isolated and threatened, AWB alumni said loud and clear “you are not alone!”

Then we had a leadership transition. We said goodbye to Tye Gregory who was our first full time director and helped AWB grow exponentially. We are deeply grateful for his leadership.

Then COVID-19 hit and we transitioned to the virtual world.

• We were one of the first organizations to pivot to online programming and proudly hosted more than 20 virtual community events to promote LGBTQ and Israel education.

• Our “Building Bridges” webinar series connected LGBTQ Israelis and the international pro-Israel community. Our programs had more than 30,000 unique views!

• More than 100 mission alumni attended our virtual alumni summit, learning new insights about Israel, discussing topics such as racial justice, and diving deeper into advocacy to advance both equality for Israel and in Israel. AWB has some of the most engaged alumni of any group that leads missions to Israel. Their experiences and rich connections with Israeli LGBTQ leaders were shared throughout the year on social media, opeds, and in progressive networks.

• We launched our “A Wider Lens” series, showcasing films, food, and literature at the nexus of LGBTQ, Israeli, and Jewish interests.

Our grantee partners in Israel continue to face unique challenges such as limited funding from the government, increased LGBTQ-phobia, and repeated elections in which LGBTQ rights have been used as a wedge issue. Through it all, A Wider Bridge has been there to offer guidance, support and funding for their crucial programs - such as fighting conversion therapy, protecting LGBTQ youth, and standing up to acts of hatred across Israel.

It is thanks to you, that our “big tent” approach allows us to welcome many different people into our family so that many diverse voices feel at home at AWB. At a time when our environment has grown increasingly fraught with a rise in antisemitism, anti-Israel, and anti-LGBTQ hate, activists like you have come together to stand up for our beliefs, for our community and for each other. A Wider Bridge’s “big tent” allows many diverse voices to feel at home and connected.

Thank you. We also want to express a special note of appreciation to our contributors, who have enabled us to accomplish so much in the past year. Together we can continue to fight for equality in Israel, equality for Israel, and justice for all.

Wishing you much happiness and health! L’Shalom,

Alon Schwartz
Chair of the Board

Ethan Felson
Executive Director
“Connecting is just so powerful right now, when everyone is feeling so isolated. I underestimated how distanced I have been feeling, so this was great.”

Row Iliescu, June 2019 Mission, Development Director Equality Florida

“We are very honored to have been able to host you, and together with you create a safe and inclusive space for Jewish LGBTQ students, as well as for their allies, from around the world. While WUJS has made its first steps to signal that it is for everyone, we certainly have learned a lot from your sessions about how to make our world union even more inclusive and safe.”

World Union of Jewish Students
A Wider Bridge Impact Grants are designed to empower LGBTQ organizations in Israel in their effort to expand rights and acceptance within their communities.

Through our grants program, we partner with organizations and advocates to change hearts and minds across Israel – from the metropolitan Tel Aviv bubble to the communities in the periphery that are electing homophobic and transphobic representatives at the local level and to the Knesset. We believe the best investments to secure LGBTQ rights and community in Israel are those that provide needed financial resources, help build capacity and amplify activist voices on the ground.

Our Impact Grants are funded in large part by our individual supporters – everyday folks who are committed to A Wider Bridge’s Mission of advocating for equality in Israel alongside our partners in Israel.
“Supporting individual freedom and equality are core values for our foundation, and A Wider Bridge embodies these principles. We strive to focus on the future, seeking to support partners who are working to create a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community and a more central role for Israel globally.”

Moses and Susan Libitzky, Libitzky Family Foundation

“There are few organizational opportunities where I can find the intersection of my strong Jewish and LGBTQ identities. A Wider Bridge is one them. AWB brings understanding, acceptance, learning, and engagement. It is mighty important work.”

Jeffrey Schoenfeld, Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.
STATISTICS OF IMPACT

486,600
The number of people uniquely reached on social media in 2020, a 268% increase over 2019

71,800
The number of followers on social media representing, a 112% increase over 2019

1416
The amount of unique attendees to virtual community programs

101
The count of alumni that attended A Wider Lens Alumni Summit

3,1,1
Hosted 3 Alumni events, 1 Pre-Shabbat mixer, 1 Alumni Summit

50+
The count of online alumni-led or moderated AWB educational programs

QUARTERLY
Beyond the Bridge alumni engagement programs

BRIDGE OVER HATE CAMPAIGN
62 trip alumni engaged in the mobilization
Alumni engaged through social media over 65 times, thousands of followers reached
19 Organizations or houses of worship made statements of solidarity
3 Elected Officials made statements of solidarity
3 Media Outlets published about topic including an op-ed by Tyler Gregory
"I love attending A Wider Bridge’s programs. Nowhere else do I experience this unique blend of American and Israeli queer, progressive, Zionist mishpacha."

Andrea Beth Damsky

"We need A Wider Bridge to continue its work in our struggle for equality. It’s very important to me that by having A Wider Bridge Queer Zionists are not alone, we have an organization behind us. In a world ingrained in antisemitism and homophobia we cannot take Israel or LGBTQ equality for granted."

Rachel Wahba
2020

PROGRAMS

Feb 9 - 10
JCPA Conference

Feb 13
Beyond the Bridge Briefing

Mar 1
AWB- LGBTech event in Israel

Mar 1
AWB AIPAC Reception

Mar 17 - Apr 1
Navigating Difficult Conversations about Israel Beyond The Bridge Salons

Apr 29
Celebrating Israel’s Independence with Pride

May 6
Understanding Israel’s Democracy & Society

May 14
Navigating the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

May 22
Beyond the Bridge Pre-Shabbat Mixer

May 26
History of LGBTQ Rights in the US and Israel
Total Revenue
$1,178,212

Total Expenses
$1,024,134

The $150,000 differential in revenue vs. expense in 2020 is in a reserve mission fund that will be fully utilized in 2021 and 2022 for additional in-person missions to Israel.
We are So Greatful to Our Donors, Supporters and Especially Our Board of Directors for Really Stepping Up this Past Year!
Join Us On
December 12, 2021
San Francisco • Streaming Live Worldwide

Honorees
Jeffrey Schoenfeld • Tyler Gregory • Bruce Maxwell • Tracey and Michelle Labgold

Special Tribute to
Founder Arthur Slepian

More details available at awiderbridge.org
DONOR LIST

Institutional Support

$100,000+
Anonymous [NYC Area]
Koret Foundation
Charles and Lynn Schusterman
Family Philanthropies
Paul E. Singer Foundation

$50,000 – $99,999
Anonymous [Bay Area]
Anonymous [NYC Area]
Klarman Foundation
Morningstar Fund
Senser Family Foundation

$25,000 – $49,999
Margaret and Daniel Loeb Family Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
Anonymous [NYC Area]
Chaikin Family Foundation
Israel on Campus Coalition
Jewish Federation of Broward County
The Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation
Libitzky Family Foundation
Merona Leadership Foundation

Under $10,000
Greater Miami Jewish Federation

Individual Support

Gesher Platina ($25K-$49.9K)
Alan Schwartz and Michael Sarid

Gesher Zahav ($10K-$24.9K)
Andy Austin and Michael Sonberg
Barry Blecher
Friend Family Foundation
David Hochberg
Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Jean-Louis Velaise
Jane and Stuart Weitzman

Gesher Adom ($5K-$9.9K)
Ruth Thomas and Carmella Ettinger
Mort and Amy Friedkin
Lee Jason Goldberg
GLBT Fund of America/Philadelphia Foundation
Bruce Maxwell and Sergei Kokoulin
Richard Miller and Roberto Konishi
James Rushing
Gerry Llamado and Arthur Slepian
Roselyne Chroman Swig

Gesher Katom ($2.5K-$4.9K)
Dr. Dana Beyer
Zack and Ronit Bodner
Richard Fiedotin
Kevin Ivers
Nathalie Kostoulaszoupanos
David Levine
James and Robbie Moon
Darryl Murphy and Ian Cohen
Andrew Nagel
Isaac Namdar and Andrew Mitchell-Namdar
Sam Picciotto
Marvin and Pam Reinglass

Gesher Tzahov ($1K-$2.49K)
David Adelman
Shlomo Ashkinazy and Michael Gomillion
Robert Bernstein and Bryant Hutson
Gilbert Brovar
Jeremy Burton
James Carlson
Ann and Ariel Dubin
Barbara and Jeffrey Farber
Dean Feldman
Ethan Felson and Daniel Schapira
Mary Glasspool
Jeff Goodman and Ralph Storrier
Archie Gatesman and Gary Debode
Tyler Gregory
Paul Groipen
Sara Haber
Janet Harris and Michael Newman
Frederick Hertz
Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum
Hilary Smith Kapner and Bill Kapner
Ryan Karben
Ron and Barbara Kaufman
Steve Kay Kupiatzky
Oded Krashinsky
Sam and Stephanie Lauter
Arthur Leonard
Ronald Lezell
Daryl Messinger and James Heeger

Gesher Yarok ($500-$999)
Courtney Mizel
Harry Nelson
Frank November
Anne and Nathan Petrowsky
Elliot Pilshaw
Max Polonsky
Scott Reiter and David Vos
Jarrow Ragovin
Steven and Lisa Rudner
Arnold Schoenberg
Jeff Singer
James Steindecker
Fred Steiner
Dr. Stuart Solsky
Josh Swidler
Andrew Tabatchnick and Ira Baer
Dennis Tibben
Evan Weissman
Justin Weitz and Kevin Gray
Sharon Wilkes and Robert Kinberg
Les Zendle and Jerry Hanson

Gesher Kachol ($250-$499)
Anonymous (2)
Juliet Baranti
Allan Baum and Frank Liberto
Isaac Belfer
Cindy Brown
Alex Carciento
Rabbi Judy and Michael Cohen-Rosenberg
Congregation Kol Ami
Rabbi Denise Eger
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