

Dear Friends,

When seminal American Jewish poet and activist Emma Lazarus wrote these prescient words in 1883, she could not have imagined just how true they would ring today.

Earlier this year, we, like many of you, experienced renewed hope after a period of unprecedented loss, grief and hardship. Through the promise of vaccines, we were able to hug our loved ones, visit with friends and resume some of the activities that fill our lives with meaning. Meanwhile, the reinstatement of responsible leadership in our halls of power made us optimistic that a brighter, more just future was possible—both at home and abroad.

*And yet.*

As we write this letter, strong variants of COVID-19 are once again raging in our communities, making our hoped-for return to “normalcy” more tentative than it seemed just months ago. Too many people around the world lack the vital protection that vaccines have afforded us, and the death toll continues to rise. What’s more, our world is gripped by global uncertainty: Waves of political violence have torn through multiple countries, destabilizing democracies, deepening inequalities, and throwing the communities we support into chaos. And brutal hurricanes, floods, heat waves and fires have swept the globe—clear signs that the climate crisis is escalating, destroying the homes and lives of people around the planet.

**That is why, during this moment of great global suffering, we must do everything in our power as American Jews to secure a more just future—for everyone.**

And thanks to your support, we are doing just that. Because of your partnership, courageous activists and grassroots organizations in

“Until we are all free,  
we are none of us free.”

—EMMA LAZARUS, 1883

the 18 countries we serve have deftly adapted to the harsh realities of COVID-19. In spite of innumerable challenges, they are building movements for democracy, fighting to advance the rights of women, girls and LGBTQI+ people, and defending our planet so that the next generation can flourish. And here at home, your generosity is ensuring that AJWS’s advocacy team and Jewish leaders across the U.S. can influence our government to utilize its power to support this same agenda for justice—helping to create a world where human rights are paramount and all people can live with dignity.

**Our work is more crucial than ever, and with you by our side, we are refusing to rest and say “we are free” until we are all free.**

We are proud to share this annual report with you. Thank you for your support in 2021 and beyond.

With our deepest gratitude,



*Robert Bank*

Robert Bank  
President and CEO



*Bradley Abelow*

Bradley Abelow  
Chair of the Board  
of Trustees