

# Celebrating 30 years of



THE  
BRONFMAN  
FELLOWSHIP

November 12, 2017  
New York City

# ברוך המבינים Bronfmanim

עשה לך רב,  
וקנה לך חבר,  
והוי דן את  
כל האדם  
לכף זכות.

Make for  
yourself a  
teacher, acquire  
for yourself a  
friend, judge  
everyone  
favorably.

## Luncheon Order of Events

Lunch is served	
Welcome	<b>Ryder Kessler ('03),</b> <i>AAB President</i>
Remembering Edgar M. Bronfman z"l	<b>Dana Raucher ('89),</b> <i>Executive Director of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation</i>  <b>Jan Aronson, wife of</b> <i>Edgar M. Bronfman z"l</i>
Reflections on 30 Years	<b>Becky Voorwinde ('97),</b> <i>Executive Director</i>
A Tribute to Our Educators	<b>Members of the Fellowship Class of 2017</b>
Sharing Memories	<b>Ava Charne, Administrative Director</b>
Closing	<b>Ryder Kessler</b>

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Music provided by **Dvir Cahana ('11)** and **Deborah Sacks Mintz ('04)**

### The Bronfman Fellowship Staff

#### **North America:**

Hannah Kapnik Ashar  
Ava Charne  
Heather Smith  
Aaron Steinberg  
Becky Voorwinde  
Stefanie Weisman

#### **Israel:**

Idit Ben Or  
Nava Melki  
Neta Polizer  
Alissa Symon  
Daphna Yizrael

### Board of Directors

Dana Raucher, *President*  
Ned Foss, *Treasurer*  
Jonathan Wachter, *Secretary*

## A Letter from Adam R. Bronfman



Thirty years ago, my father was troubled by the discord and fragmentation he witnessed within the Jewish community. He created The Bronfman Fellowship in the hopes of forming an interdenominational cadre of young Jewish leaders with the knowledge, training, and commitment to “contribute to the well-being and strength of our people.” Three decades later, I am proud to say that the Fellowship has evolved into a global community that exceeds what my father and I could have imagined.

I wish that my father, who passed away in 2013, could be here to witness this remarkable gathering of three decades of Bronfmanim. During the Fellowship’s twenty-fifth anniversary, he expressed amazement at what the Fellows had accomplished.

As he wrote in a letter for that milestone event:

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*It gives me great pride to celebrate and reflect on 25 years of the Bronfman Youth Fellowships. What began as a vision for the future of Jewish individuals has turned into a realized community of Jewish pioneers. Founding BYFI was an investment in long-term change for the Jewish community, the results of which I never could have predicted. I am proud to see the fruits of the investment I made 25 years ago, as alumni of BYFI have come to represent the ideal of what a thoughtful, informed Jewish community can look like....*

*As someone who cares deeply for the Jewish community, I know there is constantly a new stream of challenges we must rise to meet. I see alumni tackling these challenges as they reimagine text study, inclusion, prayer, and American-Israeli relations for the Jewish community. I am confident the BYFI alumni will meet the changing needs of our people....*

*As I have said several times before, no group gives me more hope for our people's future than the 'Bronfmanim.' Your accomplishments and erudition as Jews - whatever you do or do not believe - gives me great pride in founding BYFI. Thank you all for giving me such nachas.*

(Excerpted from the 25th Anniversary *Reflections* magazine, October 2012.)

I am sure that my father would be even more filled with *nachas* today. It is my honor to perpetuate his praiseworthy vision by supporting the Fellowship, which continues to be The Samuel Bronfman Foundation's most valued project. As I told the 2017 Fellows when I visited them during their orientation, the model for communication in the Fellowship is not necessarily to agree, but to have empathy. I am awed and humbled when I see how Bronfmanim have put into practice the values my father lived by, strengthening the Jewish community and making the world a better place. On behalf of my father and myself, thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam R. Bronfman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Adam R. Bronfman**

*President of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation*

## We Remember



**Edgar M. Bronfman's** (z"l) commitment to Jewish learning, the Jewish people, and open dialogue inspired him to establish The Bronfman Fellowship. The seeds Edgar planted have grown into a flourishing community of more than 1100 individuals whose passion and creativity are shaping the Jewish future.

**Bronfmanim around the world are grateful for his vision.**

*May their memory be a blessing*

**Rabbi Jim Diamond z"l (Beloved Faculty)**

**Jeffrey Eisenberg z"l ('03)**

**David Getman z"l ('09)**

**Tani Goodman z"l (Amitei Bronfman '01)**

**Shira Palmer-Sherman z"l ('97)**

## The Bronfman Fellowship Faculty, 1987 — 2017

An enormous thank you to the brilliant and dedicated faculty members who have enriched the lives of Bronfmanim for the past three decades.

*Hannah Kapnik Ashar ('04)*

*Rabbi Andy Bachman*

*Rabbi Jethro Berkman*

*Rabbi Steven Cohen*

*Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld*

*Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses*

*Rabbi Jim Diamond z"l*

*Rabbi Larry Edwards*

*Rabbi Josh Feigelson*

*Rabbi Edward Feld*

*Rabbi Shimon Felix*

*Rabbi Laura Geller*

*Dr. David Gerwin*

*Dr. Marc Gopin*

*Dr. Gidon Isaacs*

*Dr. Sheila Jelen ('87)*

*Dr. Lindsay Kaplan*

*Dr. Judith Kates*

*Rabbi Claudia Kreiman*

*Rabbi Dahlia Kronish*

*Ilana Kurshan ('95)*

*Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer ('93)*

*Dr. Jon Levisohn*

*Rabbi Audrey Marcus-Berkman*

*Rabbi Rachel Nussbaum ('93)*

*Dr. Vanessa Ochs*

*Rabbi Michael Paley*

*Dr. Noam Pianko ('90)*

*Rabbi James Ponet*

*Dr. Joseph Reimer*

*Rabbi Or Rose*

*Dr. Judith Rosenbaum ('90)*

*Rabbi Sonia Saltzman*

*Rabbi Yehuda Sarna*

*Rabbi Gerry Serotta*

*Rabbi Susan Silverman*

*Rabbi Ruth Sohn*

*Rabbi Abby Sosland*

*Dr. Regina Stein*

*Rabbi Iscah Waldman*

*Rabbi Avi Weinstein*

*Rabbi Mishael Zion*

# Acknowledgments

This event could not have taken place without the hard work and contributions of so many in the Bronfman community.

**Thank you!**

## **30th Anniversary Steering Committee**

Karen Alexander ('88)	Laura Liebman ('88)
Benjamin Amster ('02)	Sara Liss ('96)
Jonathan Bresman ('90)	Zachary Luck ('01)
Lily Dodd ('15)	Raphael Magarik ('05)
Aliza Gans ('09)	Hallie Loeb Neuman ('87)
Ellie Gettinger ('98)	Evan Parks ('05)
Danny Greene ('00)	Susan Pultman ('99)
Julie Hartman ('10)	Joseph Rashba ('10)
Elena Hoffenberg ('11)	Judith Rosenbaum ('90)
Mattie Kahn ('09)	Stephen Rutman ('09)
David Zvi Kalman ('04)	Erin Scharff ('99)
Ryder Kessler ('03)	Ella Shteingart ('88)
Rebecca Krieger ('13)	Jonathan Wachter ('96)

## **Alumni Advisory Board, 2015 – present**

David Bell ('93)	Daniel Liss ('11)
Rafi Bildner ('10)	Hannah Mayne ('02)
Zach Bleemer ('08)	Anat Maytal ('00)
Ellie Gettinger ('98)	Talya Nevins ('12)
Danny Greene ('00)	Aryeh Nussbaum-Cohen ('10)
Talya Kagedan ('02)	Sophie Oberfield ('96)
Ryder Kessler ('03)	Sarah Rapoport ('05)
Alana Kinarsky ('03)	Ella Shteingart ('88)
Noah Kippley-Ogman ('03)	Skyler Siegel ('10)
Melissa Korn ('01)	Igor Timofeyev ('91)
Laura Liebman ('88)	Jonathan Wachter ('96)

## **We would also like to acknowledge the outstanding generosity of:**

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Lisa Exler ('95)	PJ Library
Aliza Gans ('09)	All of our Shabbat meal hosts.
Kaitlin Nemeth ('05)	All the teachers and facilitators who led sessions this weekend.
Abigail Hirsch ('89)	Everyone who donated to our annual campaign and 30th anniversary.
Mark Schiffer ('90)	

*If there have been any omissions or errors, please accept our apologies.*