



THE BRONFMAN FELLOWSHIP

2020 YEAR AT A GLANCE



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Our thanks to the entire Bronfman community for your continued generosity, dedication, and support.

"The fellowship is absolutely crucial for intellectual stimulation and widening of one's world view. I wouldn't trade it for a thing." – Marina R. (2020 Fellow)



Even during a year as challenging as 2020, the Bronfman community has continued to come through for each other with extraordinary dedication and generosity. Last year, in response to our annual fundraising campaign, 397 economically diverse donors contributed more than \$154,000! Your support makes a crucial difference in our mission to nurture talented young Jews to build a more dynamic and pluralistic future.

In response to the pandemic, we rapidly harnessed technology and trained our educators to create a robust virtual program for our N. American and Israeli Fellows, encapsulating the best that Bronfman has to offer. It was amazing to see how deeply the Fellows connected with and learned from one another, often staying up late into the night to continue their conversations on Zoom. You can hear from the Fellows in their own words at www.bit.ly/bronfman2020; and we've included inspirational quotes from them throughout this booklet.

This year reinforced the importance of community in overcoming the isolation of physical distancing, and we were gratified to see Bronfmanim turning to one another for support and mutual enrichment. The bonds of this intergenerational, 1300+ member community were strengthened through our far-reaching alumni initiatives, including a mentoring program that has so far touched the lives of 57 alumni, a popular pluralism discussion series that we are now expanding to more Bronfmanim and partner organizations, and over 50 thought-provoking alumni events in N. America and Israel.

This was also a year of deep reflection regarding what justice and inclusion mean in N. America and in the Jewish community. To that end, we have embarked on work to ensure the Fellowship remains a place that embraces Jewish voices from as wide a spectrum as possible, including but not limited to diversity in religious and cultural affiliation, race, ethnicity, spiritual beliefs, place of origin, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, and political views. This work includes shoring up our affinity group listservs and discussion groups, as well as launching a vigorous training and curriculum review project.

I look forward to continuing to grow, innovate, and learn with you in 2021. Thank you for being a valued member of this community.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Becky Voorwinde". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Becky Voorwinde
Executive Director of The Bronfman Fellowship

Bronfman by the Numbers

Number of alumni
in the mentoring
program in
N. America and Israel

34 NUMBER OF YEARS
FELLOWSHIP HAS EXISTED

NUMBER OF
BRONFTALKS

Sample BronfTalks:
*Reimagining Criminal
Justice, Parts 1 & 2*
*A Memorable Seder
in Memorable Times*
*The Future of Musical
Performance*

57

6 No. of Sessions in the
“Where Pluralism Thrives”
discussion series

10%

ACCEPTANCE RATE among
N. AMERICAN APPLICANTS

22

NUMBER OF BRONFMANIM
PARTICIPATING IN AFFINITY

groups for alumni with children
and alumni in the JOC and LGBTQ+
communities

212

27

Number of alumni
events in Israel

Sample events:

Pre-U.S. Elections Discussion

*Movie Screening with Director
Yair Agmon (Amit '04)*

Scenario Mapping in Times of Uncertainty

10
No. of Alumni
Venture Fund
projects in
N. America and
Israel awarded
peer-supported
grants of
\$2,000 each

852

Number of posts
made to the
Bronfman listserv

1326

No. of N. American and
Israeli alumni and Fellows

“I became brave enough to be who I am, and to aspire to listen to myself
and to what I love and want.” – 2019 Amit

2020 Budget

TOTAL BUDGET:

\$1.9 million

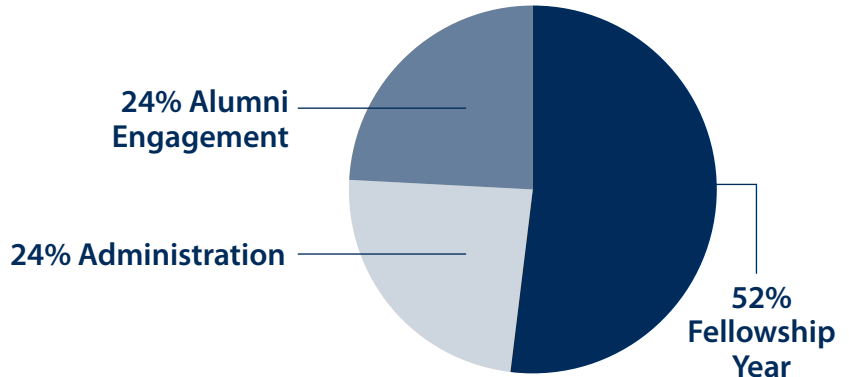
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

TOTAL: \$154,422

TOTAL NUMBER

OF DONORS: 397

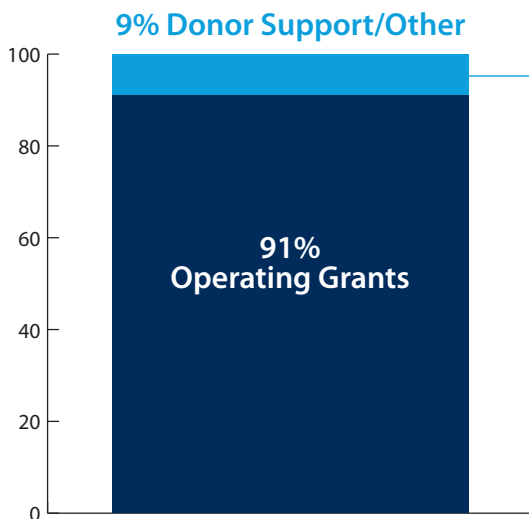
PROGRAM EXPENSES



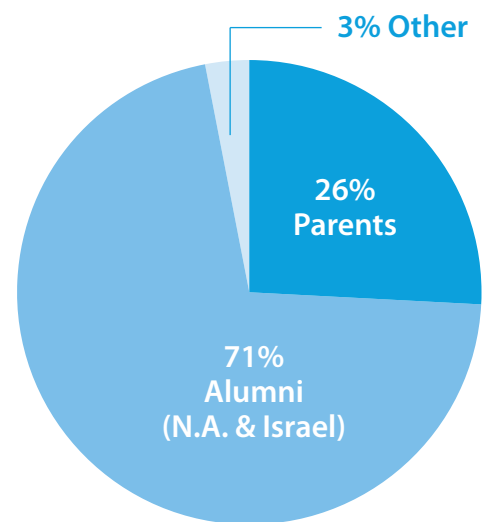
Number of people who contributed to the Ava Fund, which helps alumni with financial need to participate in programming: **93**

DONOR SUPPORT

9% of our revenue comes from individual donations.



Who gave to The Bronfman Fellowship?



"It's this unimaginably incredible combination of intense intellectual learning, real camaraderie, and emotional investment." – Tal M. (2020 Fellow)

The Ripple Effect: Three Programs That Made Waves in 2020

1. Artist Residency

We invited three leading innovators in Jewish art to expand Fellows' perceptions of what it means to be a Jewish cultural creator.

2. Mentoring Program

Fifty-seven alumni in Israel and N. America enjoyed the benefits of our intergenerational community by participating in our carefully facilitated mentoring programs.

3. Pluralism Discussion Series

We launched this series for 26 alumni in 2020, which focused on exploring pluralism in our time and how we can help it grow and evolve. In 2021 we are expanding this initiative.

*Left: Lamentations
by Ava Berkwits (2020 Fellow)*



Elisheva Glass Yuan ('97) on the Pluralism series: "... the only experience I had in 2020 of one of my communities (Jewish or not!) trying to disentangle these knotty, timely questions about co-existence and growing stronger together, despite our differences."

THE MELANCHOLY TIME OF EICHA
ROCKS ME INTO A STATE OF
PARTIAL CONSTRUCTED FATIGUE.

EV Tisha B'Av, July 29 2020

Alumni Profiles: COVID Heroes

So many Bronfman alumni have stepped up to make a difference during the pandemic, and we are grateful to all of them. Here are three Bronfmanim who are making a significant impact on their communities.

Abe Baker-Butler ('19)

I am the **New York Lead** and National Recruitment Coordinator for a student-led organization called TeleHealth Access for Seniors, and we are collecting old iPhones, iPads, chargers, and other smart devices to donate to medical practices and Veterans' Affairs hospitals for distribution to/use by low-income elderly patients in need. Amid a slow vaccine rollout and new concern over variants, the telehealth need is still far from met, and telehealth is here to stay post-pandemic. Currently, many medical practitioners are operating via telehealth appointments to avoid risk of COVID-19 infection, and many older patients lack the smart devices needed to actually "attend" these appointments. We have already donated thousands of devices to over

100 medical providers in 26 states, and we also provide seniors with multilingual user guides and a live tech-support hotline. You can learn more at telehealthforseniors.org.

Abe was a recipient of the 2020 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards.

Marni Loffman ('13)

When COVID-19 broke out and my three sisters and I found ourselves back at home due to school closures and work changes, we began baking challah more regularly. As the days passed and the amount of challah coming out of the oven increased, our mother (and #1 fan) asked if we would be able to make some extra challah for the ER doctors where she worked. Soon, everyone in the community wanted challah! We weren't sure what to do as we didn't feel comfortable selling it for profit. And then there was a wake-up call: a horrific string of shootings killing Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and other Black and Brown folks stirred us to form Challah Back Girls. We sought to connect this ancient Jewish culinary tradition with our desire to support building a more compassionate, just and equitable world. Today, we bake and sell challah to raise money and awareness for organizations that build joy, connection, intentionality and equity, with a specific focus on anti-racism. You can learn more at challahbackgirls.org.

Yarden Mendelson (Amitei Bronfman '03)

As a **licensed clinical psychologist** in Israel and a practicing therapist, I represent more than 5,000 psychologists who work in the public service sector in Israel. Although Israel has universal health care, the right to mental health services has been disregarded. With the rise of COVID-19, and its accompanying severe effects on mental health, it is more important than ever to make mental health treatment accessible to all. My colleagues and I have been meeting with top officials in the Israeli government, urging them to increase funding for mental health services, build tools for social and community support, add at least 500 psychologists to the public health system, staff all coronavirus wards with rehabilitative psychologists, provide weekly mental follow-up visits for patients at home, and more. It is incredibly important for all citizens, especially teachers, children, and medical staff, to receive mental health care in order to maintain their health and stability.

Things to Come

Bronfman in the Berkshires

We're looking forward to getting together in person at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in the Berkshires, for the 2020 Fellows' Spring Seminar and the 2021 cohort's immersive summer experience! We're working closely with health experts to ensure the safety of the Fellows.

This summer, in addition to our longstanding curriculum of learning with an esteemed faculty of Rabbis and educators, we will offer an enhanced Artist Residency program. After the success of our pilot effort, we are inviting three innovative Jewish artists to again help Fellows immerse themselves in creating art, building empathy and personal connection, and empowering them to add their voices to the rich tapestry of Jewish culture and ideas. The Visiting Artists will also be able to pursue their own creativity and advance the field of N. American Jewish art.

"This was an amazing journey, both to places and in my soul. I experienced so many emotions during and between seminars, and gained a lot of knowledge... I am full of gratitude." – 2019 Amit

Dynamic programs for alumni

- More fascinating BronfTalks, led by alumni experts on a wide range of issues.
- Another round of the eye-opening discussion series, "Where Pluralism Thrives."
- Continuing the Mentoring Program, which pairs young alumni with older alumni who offer support, wisdom and guidance on professional decisions as well as life questions and values.
- Coming soon: The International Alumni Directory! Alumni in North America and Israel will be able to look each other up based on careers, interests, and more.

Stay tuned for more info!

Contact office@bronfman.org with questions.



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To donate to The Bronfman Fellowship, visit bronfman.org/donate. Or mail a check, made out to The Bronfman Fellowship, to: The Bronfman Fellowship; PO Box 632; White Plains, NY 10602.