

The Bronfmanim are **INTELLECTUAL**
The Bronfmanim are *caring*
The Bronfmanim are **A JEWISH COMMUNITY**
The Bronfmanim are *funny*
The Bronfmanim are **creative**
The Bronfmanim are **serious**
The Bronfmanim are **Israeli & American**
The Bronfmanim are **doctors**
The Bronfmanim are **ONLINE**
The Bronfmanim are *talkative*
The Bronfmanim are **thoughtful**
The Bronfmanim are **emotional**
The Bronfmanim are *ambitious*
The Bronfmanim are **engaging**

The Bronfmanim are **high-quality**
The Bronfmanim are *tolerant*
The Bronfmanim are **loving**
The Bronfmanim are **volunteers**
The Bronfmanim are **THOUGHT PARTNERS**
The Bronfmanim are *spiritual*
The Bronfmanim are **inspiring**
The Bronfmanim are **scholars**
The Bronfmanim are **a network**
The Bronfmanim are **here for me**
The Bronfmanim are **activists**
The Bronfmanim are **PROGRESSIVE**
The Bronfmanim are *lovers of debate*
The Bronfmanim are **DIVERSE**

THE BRONFMAN FELLOWSHIPS

2014

The Bronfmanim are **PASSIONATE**
The Bronfmanim are *my friends*
The Bronfmanim are **far away**
The Bronfmanim are **lawyers**
The Bronfmanim are **everywhere**
The Bronfmanim are **OPEN-MINDED**
The Bronfmanim are **leaders**
The Bronfmanim are **sincere**
The Bronfmanim are **WELCOMING**
The Bronfmanim are **Rabbis**
The Bronfmanim are *generous*
The Bronfmanim are *great mentors*
The Bronfmanim are *always interesting*
The Bronfmanim are **AROUND THE WORLD**

The Bronfmanim are **ARTISTS**
The Bronfmanim are **always learning**
The Bronfmanim are **CHANGING THE WORLD**
The Bronfmanim are *a virtual community*
The Bronfmanim are **Jewish resources**
The Bronfmanim are **COOL**
The Bronfmanim are **teachers**
The Bronfmanim are **supportive**
The Bronfmanim are *exciting*
The Bronfmanim are **surprising**
The Bronfmanim are **my colleagues**
The Bronfmanim are *chevruta partners*
The Bronfmanim are *multi-generational*
The Bronfmanim are **a resource**

“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.”

– Edgar M. Bronfman

Everywhere that change is happening, Bronfmanim are part of it. From digitizing the Jewish canon, to crafting groundbreaking documentaries, to advocating for prison reform: Bronfmanim are taking action. The Bronfman Fellowships has an outsize impact, far beyond our numbers.

This year we lost our program's founder Edgar M. Bronfman z"l. The Fellowships is a reflection of Edgar's values: open discourse so that people can see the world through a lens broader than their own, grounding Jewish identity in Jewish text, and making Jewish community inclusive.

Thanks to Edgar's vision, Bronfmanim are part of something remarkable: a Jewish community that shares a passion for learning and questioning; where they can gain the inspiration and skills to make a difference in the world; and where they are supported by a powerful network of 1,041 high-impact alumni.

In 2014 we continued to recruit top talent in Israel and North America, ran nearly 100 days of intensive Fellowship Year programming in both countries, and actively engaged with 76% of our alumni. We hosted a special Roundtable for collegiate alumni about Israel discourse on campus, received a record number of grant applications to the Alumni Venture Fund, and found time to discuss gender dynamics on our listserv.

We are an intentional Jewish community: grappling with ideas that inspire, stepping up to create impact, and reaching out to support each other through life's challenges and triumphs.

Together with you in 2015, we plan on taking these initiatives and values to new heights.

Becky Voorwinde *Michael Zion*

Becky Voorwinde and Rabbi Michael Zion

Co-Directors, The Bronfman Fellowships



Who

ARE

THE

BRONF

The background features a light beige gradient with several large, semi-transparent blue shapes. At the top, there is a blue shape resembling a stylized arrow or a curved wedge pointing downwards. Below it, a larger, more complex blue shape curves across the middle of the page. At the bottom, a large, solid blue circle is partially visible, overlapping the text.

MANIM?

The BRONFMANIM are...

A powerful

IN A COMMUNITY OF
1,041 Israelis and Americans
we have...



Bronfmanim working at Uber, Tumblr, Snapchat, Twitter, Dipjar, Facebook & Google

Bronfmanim are storytellers, activists, civil servants, scholars, community builders, and professionals...who love to share their ideas with each other through conversations, mentoring relationships and learning sessions.

The BYFI team connects and matches Bronfmanim from across the community. From one-on-one conversations to online connections and in-person gatherings, together we inspire, engage and amplify the impact of our community.



Published Authors

10  Filmmakers

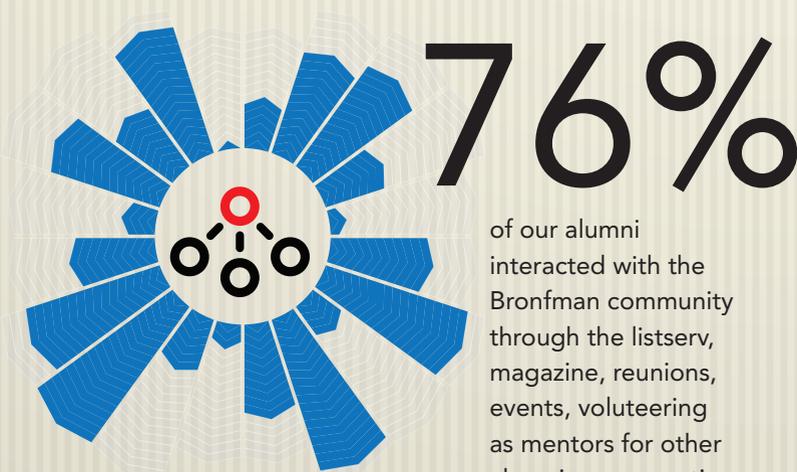
Wexner  27 Graduate Fellows

3  Voices on the Radio

31 

Pulpit Rabbis

25  Psychologists



of our alumni interacted with the Bronfman community through the listserv, magazine, reunions, events, volunteering as mentors for other alumni, or supporting the Alumni Venture Fund in 2014.

NETWORK



Public School Teachers



Professional Dancers



Farmers



of our alumni downloaded EVERTRUE, the alumni directory app



Engineers



Rhodes Scholars



Lawyers

Who have worked with the Israeli or American Supreme court



Consultants

Bronfmanim write for The New York Times, Ha'aretz, The Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs Magazine, The LA Times, POLITICO, The New Yorker and the Huffington Post

The BRONFMANIM are...

8 Bronfmanim were speakers during the year's Fellowship seminars.

A community of ideas

The Listserv continues to be a central platform of conversation, with 20% of Bronfmanim sharing their thoughts in over 380 posts.

We held 8 Bronftalks lunchtime briefing calls by Bronfmanim on topics ranging from mass incarceration to the protests in Ferguson.

60% of college age Bronfmanim gathered at Princeton for our annual Collegiate Weekend.

COAST TO COAST:
Bronfmanim gathered to study together in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva, Jerusalem, Haifa and New York.

90 Israeli Bronfmanim gathered at a bar to hear 6 alumni talk about their PhD research.

WRITING



Rebecca Voorwinde & Rabbi Mishael Zion published articles in The Forward, The Jewish Week, Huffington Post and eJewishPhilanthropy.

Weekly Torah insights written by Bronfmanim and Faculty are read by over 35% of the community.

that **INSPIRE**

20 Bronfmanim were paired for virtual Hevruta learning this year.



LEARNING

ONLINE

Shaping the conversation: Matti Friedman ('94) on Mideast media coverage and Sarah Marcus ('02) on sexual assault were the most viewed articles by Bronfmanim on social media.



CONVERSATION



12 College-age Bronfmanim came together to think out-loud about Israel discourse on campus.

A Community of CARING



The Bronfman Fellowships is an intergenerational community there to support each other through life's challenges and triumphs. In 2014 our Alumni Advisory Board created a new initiative to enhance and cultivate a culture of support and care for Bronfmanim and their families.



Connecting to share experiences & resources

Alumni signed up to serve as resources for others in the community on

- Infertility
- Divorce
- LGBT family life
- Career changes
- Interfaith marriage
- Chronic illness
- Loss & mourning
- Mental health challenges

70 Bronfmanim signed up through the Alumni Advisory Board hospitality initiative to host other alumni in their homes.

46 Bronfmanim joined a new parenting listserv.

Learning, reflecting and supporting each other in difficult moments

In Fall 2014, we held a text study in NYC to discuss brokenness & healing with faculty member Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses.

Amitim attended a Tisha B'Av text study to process the summer's events in Gaza through a Bronfman lens.

Bronfmanim reached out to bereaved community members offering condolences, suggesting resources, and attending shiva.

Participating in life's celebrations

Bronfman staff & faculty serve as advisors during life-cycle events in our community, including:

- Officiating at weddings
- Suggesting Jewish texts and resources to enrich events such as weddings, Bar & Bat Mitzvot, and births



A Community of IMPACT

Bronfmanim are changing lives and transforming communities. We provide support for Bronfmanim who are leading projects, offering mentorship, connections and inspiration.

Alumni Venture Fund (AVF): Since 2005 our award-winning peer-to-peer Venture Fund has bolstered alumni-led initiatives aligned with our values. 2014 was a record year with peak numbers of grant applications and donations.

Ma'aseh Projects: Bronfman Fellows take on a local community project and are mentored by older Bronfmanim.

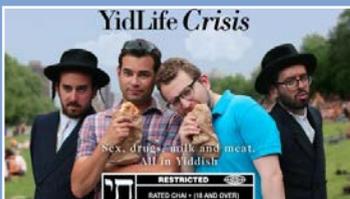
In 2014 we completed a three year cycle of Bronfman Campus Ambassadors, a program aimed at deepening reflection for Bronfmanim leading service projects on college campuses.

Within the North American Jewish world Bronfmanim have taken on leadership roles in synagogues, schools, and entrepreneurial initiatives. Of the recent list of Top 50 Innovative Jewish Organizations ("Slingshot"), 1 in 10 have Bronfmanim involved in leadership positions.

Spotlight on Alumni Projects

Eli Batalion ('97) YidLife Crisis (AVF)

YidLife Crisis is a video series hosted at YidLifeCrisis.com and syndicated across the web which aims to address the modern Ashkenazi YidLife Crisis: what is your identity when you're brought up with elements of "old country" Yiddishkeit, but are trying to carve out a modern 21st century identity in a secular world naive to the shtetl life? YidLife Crisis explores how to reconcile this dichotomy by following the lives of two bachelors, hipster 30-something Montreal Jews trying to hustle "careers," and pick

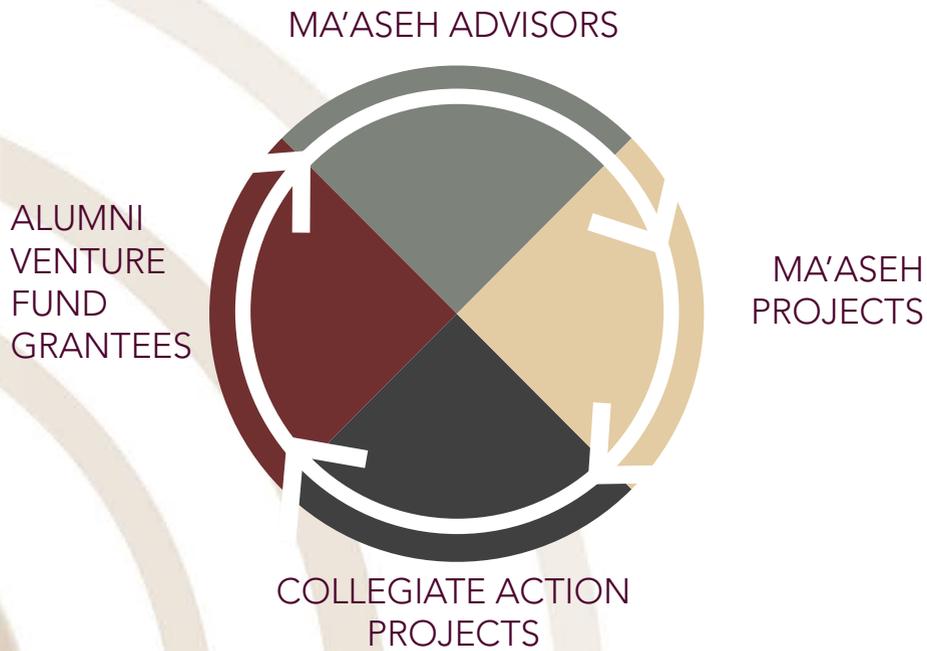


up women, all in Yiddish. It's a hypothetical blend of worlds viewing the vicissitudes of Gen Y life through the Talmudic reasoning and comedic slant of Yiddish-ness.

Brett Lockspeiser ('99) Sefaria (AVF)

Brett Lockspeiser ('99) & Josh Foer ('99) are the founders of Sefaria, a groundbreaking online living library of Jewish texts. Sefaria aims to bring comprehensive, multilingual, interactive, visually appealing, and open source materials from Tanakh to Talmud to Zohar to modern texts and all the volumes of commentary in between. Today, Sefaria contains more than 24M words and 400,000 known connections between texts, in Hebrew and in translation.





Jaime Korman ('13) Home 2 Home (Ma'aseh, AVF)

In conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of San Jose, Jaime facilitated an after school art program for 15 kids from low income, predominantly Latin American families. "As a Jew, my empathy for the immigrant child's experience of uprooting and re-rooting was the foundation for this project. I also realized that in an adult-centric world, children rarely get asked for their opinions and feelings about their present lives, and art making can organically stimulate meaningful conversation between participants."



Yulia Forshuk (Amita '06) Adva (AVF)

An extracurricular leadership program for disadvantaged high school students in Israel's periphery started by Bronfmanim. A special seminar for girls introduced students to Israeli women leading in their fields. The program included discussions about gender discrimination and gender and culture. In the process, students met successful female role models and were given the opportunity to explore issues rarely addressed in traditional school settings.

Allison Lazarus ('09) The Manson Prison Education Initiative (Campus Ambassador)

The Manson Prison Education Project brings students at Yale University into the juvenile facility of a local prison to tutor inmates on GED preparation and SAT enrichment. The group, under Allison's leadership, started an advocacy component, hosting weekly discussion groups for interested students and functioning as a platform for reforming America's prison system.



Two communities investing in the future **TOGETHER**

The two centers of Jewish life today are North America and Israel. Israeli and American Jews speak different languages and experience vastly different lived realities. When the Bronfman Fellowships was formed, the Jewish community's greatest challenge was denominational rifts. Today, it seems the greatest challenge is how to maintain meaningful links between Israeli and American Jews.

Our Co-Directors have been invited to speak and write about the future of the Israeli/American relationship, grounded in our work with our two Bronfmanim communities.



In recent years the organized Jewish community has sounded alarm bells about the growing divide between American and Israeli Jews. We have created myriad programs to facilitate a closer connection, particularly for young Jews. Yet in this time of crisis we seem to be missing one of the most basic solutions for bridging the chasm of experience. Now is the time to welcome Israelis to share their vulnerabilities. Now is the time to offer an empathetic ear on a personal basis.

– *Offering a Sympathetic Ear to Israelis, Rebecca Voorwinde in The Jewish Week*

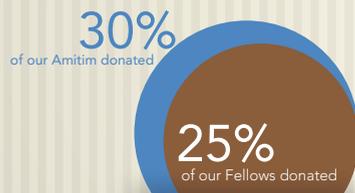
America and Israel are the “yin/yang” of the Jewish People. ‘Yin-Yang’ describes how contrary forces in nature are interconnected and interdependent: hot and cold, fire and water, light and shadow ... Such must be the dynamic system between the Israeli and American Jewish projects. They push, pull, criticize and inspire each other — head on. They are totally different, and yet each contain an aspect of the other inside them as well.

– *Rabbi Mishael Zion, ELI Talks*

Our Israeli and American Bronfmanim are finding unique ways to collaborate and learn from one another:

This year our Alumni Venture Fund became a joint Israeli/American project. Donations, applications for grants, and deliberations on grants were conducted together.

AVF joint fundraising & deliberations



Two Groups of Outstanding 17 year olds

We continue to attract top applicants, and our acceptance rates rival those of the most competitive universities



Our Fellowships are regarded as the pre-eminent Jewish teen leadership experience. Much more than a summer program, our Fellowship Year includes quarterly virtual journal groups, and seminars in the Winter and Spring focused on North American Jewish identity. Fellows' Ma'aseh projects help bring the learning of the Fellowship back to their home communities.



Marin Callaway
(BYFI 2013),
raised Reform,
Encinitas, CA

"I now realize that my understanding of American Judaism had been very narrow before my fellowship year.

Learning from and with other American Jews from diverse backgrounds broadened my understanding. From vibrant New York City Jewry to hidden Southern communities, I learned that Judaism takes on many different forms in America."



Sally Klapper
(BYFI 2014),
raised Modern Orthodox,
Stamford, CT

"Bronfman has enabled me to see what the real world should be." Before this summer, I had never learned to learn. Now, under the guidance of the Bronfman staff, learning has blossomed into an ideal, a way to approach life. My process of unremitting questioning has led me to pursue knowledge for the sake of broader understanding. I had always thought I would live my life according to the answers to my questions. I now know I will live it according to the questions."



David Groden
(BYFI 2014),
raised Reform,
Ann Arbor, MI

"Bronfman taught me what it means to be a part of a community. Never have I been in an environment where people all had a genuine interest in everything people said. Never have I seen a place where everybody is thrilled about being with the people around them in a group large enough to create self-governing rules."



Noga Eisenstein
(Amitim 2014),
raised Orthodox,
Efrat, Israel

"I am not a person who finds it easy to board the ship of opportunity and sail away confidently to unknown places. And I feel that I have done that, in a way, as an Amit."



2015 PRIORITIES

The priorities listed below reflect areas of focus in 2015 and beyond that will ensure BYFI's sustainability and relevance for the future.

1 *"Make for yourself a teacher"* Inspire Bronfmanim and the Jewish world through learning and ideas

- Provide enrichment and reflection for Bronfmanim through in-person and virtual opportunities.
- Highlight opportunities for further Jewish growth hosted by like-minded partners.
- Amplify diverse voices of Bronfmanim through rotating guest Divrei Torah writers & Bronftalks conference calls.

2 *"Acquire for yourself a friend"* Enhance the capacity of Bronfmanim to make change in the world by linking them to a powerful, caring network

- Facilitate sharing of skills and mentorship between alumni.
- Continue system of volunteers reaching out to Bronfmanim in moments of challenge.
- Ensure continued personal connection between Bronfmanim through Evertrue smart phone database and staff introductions.

3 *"Give everyone the benefit of the doubt"* Encourage collaboration and conversation between Israeli & American Bronfmanim

- Publicly highlight the importance of Israeli exposure to North American Judaism and vice versa.
- Continue co-deliberation for Alumni Venture Fund, exemplifying cross-cultural grant-making.
- Develop a seminar for post-army/post-college Israeli and American Bronfmanim.

4 *"Great is learning which brings about action"* Support the leadership of Bronfmanim changemakers

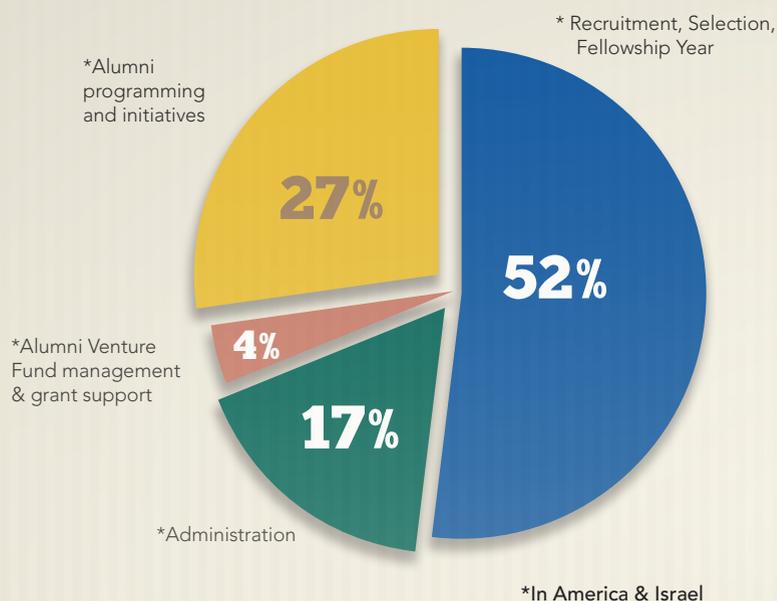
- Provide Fellows with relatable role-models by matching college-age Bronfmanim as Ma'aseh advisors.
- Offer targeted retreats for reflection and encouragement at formative inflection points for alumni.
- Host first ever Alumni Venture Fund gathering for grantees.

2014 Financial Report

**Total yearly budget:
\$1.52 million**

Over 29 years, The Samuel Bronfman Foundation and Edgar M. Bronfman have invested **\$24 million dollars**.

How does The Bronfman Fellowships spend its money?



Our Governance Structure

The Bronfman Fellowships Board of Directors

Dana Raucher ('89), President
Ned Foss, Vice President
Danny Greene ('00), Secretary

The Alumni Advisory Board

Danny Green ('00), President
Igor Timofeyev ('91), Governance Executive
Zach Luck ('01), Governance Executive
Laura Liebman ('88), AVF Executive
Noah Kippley-Ogman ('03), AVF Executive
Ella Shteingart ('88) Programming Executive

David Bell ('03), Rafi Bildner ('10), Zach Bleemer ('08),
David Zvi Kalman ('04), Alana Kinarsky ('03),
Melissa Korn ('01), Eitan Lefkowitz ('07),
Madeleine Levy Lambert ('06), Hannah Mayne ('02),
Sophie Oberfield ('96), Ariel Pollock Star ('04),
David Ponet ('92), Sarah Rapoport ('05), Jonathan Wachter ('96)

The Amitei Bronfman Va'ad Advisory Board

Igal Avrahami ('00), President
Tsion Abune ('07)
Eyal Aviv ('01)
Snunit Baraban ('04)
Nerya Cohen ('99)
Noa Kwartaz-Avraham ('99)
Adi Livny (02)
Zohar Nevo ('98)
Nadav Penn ('03)
Orit Yavnieli ('08)

Edgar M. Bronfman z"l

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**“What I hope my
greatest legacy
as a Jewish activist
will be is my
encouragement
of Jews who
are unafraid to
challenge the
status quo.
May their bravery
ripple out and their
questions expand
the boundaries of
Jewish possibility.”**



THE BRONFMAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS
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