



YEARS OF

TRANSFORMATION

THE
BRONFMAN
FELLOWSHIP

W E L C O M E

The Future is **NOW**

Thank you for joining us at the first **Bronfman Fellowship Gala!**

As we come together to celebrate 36 (double *chai*) years of transformative Jewish education, the fruits of Edgar M. Bronfman's z"l inspiring vision, we are also eagerly looking forward to the next 36 years and beyond. In today's polarized times, our mission of cultivating pluralism and building a passionate community of deeply engaged Jewish leaders is more important than ever.

With your support, we are committed to strengthening our core focus on the Fellowship Year for our Israeli and American Fellows; maximizing impact for the first decade post Fellowship year when alumni are making critical life and leadership decisions and seeking community; and sharing the Bronfman mindset, approach, and methodology with more educators and programs. From our decades of experience, we have profound lessons to share.

The Bronfman Fellowship provides a beacon for optimism and a path forward, for both the Jewish community and the world. Here's to the next 36 years!

Tonight's Program

Edward-Isaac Doveve '97 (MC)

REFLECTIONS FROM

Adam R. Bronfman

President of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation

Jonathan Safran Foer '94

Renowned Author

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

Beloved Honoree

Becky Voorwinde '97

CEO of The Bronfman Fellowship

VIDEO FEATURING THE VOICES OF YOUNG ALUMNI

Created by **Alina Yakirevitch** (Amitei Bronfman '11)

COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK

Created by **Joshua Meyer '91** & **Hannah Bashkow '18**

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

By **Katje Bulthuis '21**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

Donya Khalili Timofeyev '97

& **Hilary Caplan Somorjai ('19 parent)**

Our Speakers

Adam R. Bronfman is President of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation and is committed to furthering Edgar M. Bronfman's vision of inspiring a vibrant and joyful Jewish future by working to build a knowledgeable, proud, and welcoming community.

Katje Bulthuis '21, also known as singer-songwriter Olke, is currently on a gap year before starting at Brandeis University, where she hopes to study Theatre and Linguistics. She recently released her debut indie pop EP, "Di Froyen," which sets to music the first three poems in Yiddish poet Kadya Molodowsky's cycle of the same name, a creative endeavor Katje began as her "Beyond Bronfman" project.

Edward-Isaac Dovere '97 (MC) is a senior reporter for CNN, covering Democratic politics and campaigns across the country. Prior to joining CNN, Isaac was the founding editor for two New York-centric magazines, *City Hall* and *The Capitol*, the chief Washington correspondent for *Politico* and a staff writer for *The Atlantic*. He is also the author of the bestselling book about Democrats in the Trump years and the 2020 election, *Battle for the Soul*.

Jonathan Safran Foer '94 is the author of the novels *Everything Is Illuminated*, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, and *Here I Am*; and of the nonfiction books *Eating Animals* and *We Are the Weather*. His work has received numerous awards and has been translated into thirty-six languages. Jonathan serves on the board of Farm Forward and is a passionate advocate for climate change solutions and more conscientious individual choices toward sustainability.

Hilary Caplan Somorjai ('19 parent), Gala Co-Chair, is Director of West Coast Admissions at Harvard Business School, and is a Bronfman Fellowship Board Member. She currently serves on the Silicon Valley Advisory Council for Common Sense Media and has been active in teen initiatives for the San Francisco Jewish Federation.

Donya Khalili Timofeyev '97, Gala Co-Chair, is a mother of two and is the founder and CEO of Give Write Do, which equips parents to raise civically empowered children. Previously, she was Vice President and COO of Indivisible and served on the policy team of Cory Booker for Senate, where she worked on a range of domestic issues. She is married to Igor Timofeyev '91.

Becky Voorwinde '97 is CEO of The Bronfman Fellowship and, since 2008, has overseen the strategic planning for all aspects of the Fellowship in Israel and the US. Her professional experience includes work in Corporate Responsibility at EY and Diversity @ Work in Melbourne, Australia. Becky serves on the board of M²: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education and Tivnu, a Jewish domestic gap year program.

A note about the cave and the tree in our event space:

Aliza Gans '09, Communications Manager at Russ & Daughters, created these evocative interactive pieces inspired by a staple Bronfman text, the story of two Talmudic sages who hid in a cave to escape Roman persecution. God fed them with a carob tree while they studied and penned mystical texts, but they later struggled to reintegrate into the outside world. Torah offers a path forward, a dialogue between the physical and metaphysical, an imperative to take what we've learned beyond the cave and into the world.

Young Alumni Video

The alumni of The Bronfman Fellowship continue to innovate and lead. Our alumni, numbering over 1,400 in North America and Israel, have an outsized impact on the Jewish world and beyond. Our featured video highlights a few of the incredible young alumni who are blazing profound and meaningful paths.

Alina Yakirevitch (Amitei Bronfman '11), Producer and Director: North America and Editor, is a multidisciplinary artist and writer based in New York. Born in Russia in the mid 90's, her experience of an East to West migration – first from Russia to Israel, then from Israel to the US – informs her political engagement and studio practice. Alina holds an MFA from Hunter College, works in education and film production, and publishes fiction and essays on art.

Shiri Kuban (Amitei Bronfman '10), Producer and Director: Israel, is a filmmaker and video editor based in Tel Aviv, currently editing TV shows for Israeli Public Television and working on a feature film.

Alumni featured in the film:

Louis Aaron '17, *tech entrepreneur.*

Syd Bakal '17, *musician and actor.*

Abe Baker-Butler '19, *public health advocate.*

Briah Cahana '08, *Orthodox Rabbinical Student.*

Daphi Ezrachi (Amitei Bronfman '05), *Sustainability Program Manager, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development.*

Priscilla Frank '06, *artist and art studio supervisor for people with disabilities.*

Emma Goldberg '11, *reporter, New York Times.*

Ben Luria (Amitei Bronfman '11), *entrepreneur, one of the first Israeli Rhodes Scholars.*

Guy Melamed (Amitei Bronfman '11), *author and medical student.*

Shir Mishali (Amitei Bronfman '07), *Municipal Strategy Manager, Bloomberg-Sagol Center for City Leadership at Tel Aviv University.*

Naftali Oppenheimer (Amitei Bronfman '11), *spiritual leader and founder of Beit Midrash Ivri, a young radical cooperative Beit Midrash in Jerusalem; and Bar Kaima, a Jewish-Israeli environmental movement.*

Abe Wasserstein '16, *analyst and immigration advocate.*

Silent Auction

Place your bids for these exciting, one-of-a-kind experiences offered by Bronfman alumni. Bidding closes on May 12 at 6pm ET, and is open to the public.

Zohar Atkins '05 – *Torah, philosophy, poetry, oh my!*

Amir Bar-Lev '89 – *Your family: the documentary*

Rabbi Angela Buchdahl '89 – *The Secrets of Central with Rabbi Buchdahl*

Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen '10 – *Backstage meet-and-greet at Carnegie Hall with Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen*

Adam Davidson '87 – *Planet Adam: your choice with Adam Davidson*

Dan Edinberg '97 – *Studio time with Grammy winner Dan Edinberg*

Micah Fitzerman-Blue '00 – *Screenwriting Consultation with Micah Fitzerman-Blue, screenwriter of A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

Jonathan Safran Foer '94 – *Personalized one-of-a-kind children's book by Jonathan Safran Foer*

Joshua Foer '99 – *Turn a bowl with Joshua Foer*

Matti Friedman '94 – *The mysteries of the Aleppo Codex with Matti Friedman*

Aliza Gans '09 – *A Choose-Your-Own Russ & Daughters Adventure*

Daniel Handler '87 – *Books and Bourbon with Lemony Snicket*

Dara Horn '94 – *Holiday or Lifecycle immersive experience with Dara Horn*

David Zvi Kalman '04 – *New family ritual with scholar David Zvi Kalman*

Anya Kamenetz '97 – *Anya Kamenetz on resilience, climate change, education, and more*

Elyssa Kaplan '07 – *Get cooking with the Director of Culinary at World Central Kitchen*

Gabriella Rosen Kellerman '97 – *Tomorrowmind: the science of thriving at work*

Idit Klein '89 – *Idit Klein, Keshet founder, speaks to your Jewish audience*

Ilana Kurshan '95 – *Study or jog with scholar and author Ilana Kurshan*

Yehuda Kurtzer '93 & faculty – *Dine and Opine with Yehuda Kurtzer*

Sara Liss '96 – *Your family's recipe for the ages with Sara Liss, author of Miami Cooks*

Dan Mintz '97 – *Tina Belcher records a message for you*

Itamar Moses '94 – *Short play about YOU, written by Tony Award winner Itamar Moses*

Marta Weiss '91 – *Private tour at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London*

Asya Zlatina '04 – *Dance lesson with Asya Zlatina*

Bronfman book bundles – *A collection of books by members of the Bronfman community, curated by Becky Voorwinde*



SCAN HERE for more information!
bit.ly/silentauction36

Honoring Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, the first woman to serve as President of Hebrew College, is a Jewish pluralism trailblazer who has served as a teacher and role model to members of the Bronfman community over 15 different Fellowship years.



Rabbi Sharon loves to arm wrestle with Fellows – and she usually wins!

A Tribute to Rabbi Sharon from Hannah Kapnik Ashar '04

Director of Faculty, The Bronfman Fellowship

Sharon is a font of Torah in her teaching and also in her person.

As an educator, Sharon exudes love for our intellectual heritage. She reads text with focus and precision, and then brings her learners into the ever-expanding palace of interpretation and insight. Sharon invites her learners to honor the tradition by participating in its unfolding. Her approach has grown to be deeply embedded in the pedagogy of Bronfman as a whole.

Sharon told me once that her favorite metaphor for being a rabbi is spiritual midwife. And indeed, Sharon – standing in her steady love and quiet but powerful uprightness – helps others hold visions of what is possible for how they might grow and bring things forth into the world, and how they might tolerate the “abyss” – the chaos and fruitful darkness – along the way.

Sharon is a core model for me as an educator, rabbi, and presence. I hope to have the *zechut* – the merit – for my own rabbinate to be in her legacy.

Hannah Kapnik Ashar will receive Rabbinic ordination from Mechon Hadar this June. She serves as the Director of Faculty at The Bronfman Fellowship and is the Founder of *Rahmana*, the women’s prayer initiative. Hannah’s relationship with Rabbi Sharon began in 2004 as a Fellow. They were faculty together in 2016.

Alumni Artwork: A Gift for Rabbi Sharon

We are thrilled to present Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld with these artworks by Joshua Meyer '91 and Hannah Bashkow '18. Hannah and Josh completed them in the style of "Exquisite Corpse," in which a work is begun by one person and then added to by a different artist. Their starting point was Rav Simcha Bunim's teaching of "two pockets," a common theme in the Bronfman experience: participants imagine that there are two slips of paper in their pockets, one with the words, "The world was created for me;" and on the other, "I am but dust and ashes."

The Artists in Their Own Words*

"In a very Bronfman fashion, the key question as I tried to paint on the image that Hannah began was whether and how to leave space for her while still asserting my own voice full-throatedly. Her palette is so different from mine, pure and vibrant, while I am inclined to hide



anything bright or loud. The marks we make and the texture we use are so very different. Many times I painted over an area she had painted and then scraped my own paint back to rediscover her imagery or repainted her colors and forms on top of my own. Art relies on the clarity of the artist's voice. Can you share space? Can you do it intellectually? Can you do it stylistically? A visual chevruta." – **Joshua Meyer**

"Being forced to paint over Joshua's work was the most interesting method of studying another artist's style I've ever tried! I definitely had fun trying to mimic Joshua's style to blend aspects of my layer with his, while also incorporating my own color palette and brushwork into his. It was also an exercise in compromise and ephemerality — we both agreed to give each other full license over our first painting after we switched and let our work disappear as the other's image appeared. Now, it's almost impossible to separate it back out into different authorship or ownership, forcing me to reflect on the fact that beyond all the dichotomies and juxtapositions of the two pockets, or life, or our vastly different artistic voices, everything in learning and in art is about interconnectivity." – **Hannah Bashkow**

About the Artists:

Joshua Meyer '91 is known for his thickly layered paintings of people, and for a searching, open-ended process. The Cambridge, Massachusetts artist studied art at Yale University and The Bezalel Academy, and has exhibited in galleries and museums internationally.

Hannah Bashkow '18 is a painter and multimedia artist living and working in Providence, RI. She is currently a senior studying Visual Art at Brown University, and is an appointed student leader within the Visual Art Department as well as an Honors candidate for her A.B. degree.

*To read their full artist statements, visit bit.ly/BronfmanArt.

Acknowledgments

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

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Donya Khalili Timofeyev '97
Hilary Caplan Somorjai ('19 parent)

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We would also like to acknowledge **Adam R. Bronfman** for his steadfast leadership and vision; **Dana Raucher '89** for her dedication and guidance; our **American and Israeli staff**; our long-time former staff members **Ava Charne, Ned Foss, and Aaron Steinberg**; **Laura Liebman '88**, development consultant; **Sarah Sanders**, Gala Coordinator; **Jonathan Safran Foer '94** for helping to curate the silent auction; **Peter and Kelly McKinley** of pak creative; **Mark Cooperman** of Color Graphics & Communications, Inc.; **Chef Shayna B. Finman** of Red Clover; **Daniel Krane '12**, Gala Programming Supervisor; **Allie Alperovich '93** for her hospitality; **Aliza Gans '09, Richard Gans, and Russ & Daughters**; **Rachael Wagner '99** and **Jody's Popcorn**; and **Amalia Haas** (parent '14 and '21) and **Amalia's Bees**.

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

The Bronfman Fellowship Faculty 1987-2022

With gratitude, we recognize the brilliant and dedicated faculty members who have enriched the lives of Bronfmanim for the past 36 years.

Rabbi Adina Allen
Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
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* Israeli Senior Educators



IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDER,
Edgar M. Bronfman z"l

Edgar M. Bronfman z"l placed enormous faith in the ability of young people to forge paths and create solutions that may have eluded previous generations. He strategically chose to invest tremendous resources in a superlative, top-notch program for a carefully selected group. Edgar had the patience and foresight to realize that by cultivating a well-chosen batch of promising young people each year, the network would grow to have an outsize impact, far beyond its numbers.

We honor his vision with deep gratitude.

Continuing Edgar's Legacy

The Bronfman Fellowship cherishes its relationship with The Samuel Bronfman Foundation. We are grateful to **Adam R. Bronfman** for his gift of continued partnership, vision, and sustaining support for the Fellowship's mission.



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The Bronfman Fellowship nurtures intellectually curious young Jews from Israel and North America to build a more dynamic and pluralistic future.

Thank you for your continued support.



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AND BEYOND

Your generous gift of \$1,800 or more will help The Bronfman Fellowship to continue to lead the way in transformative Jewish education, with an outsized impact on Jewish life and the world. By becoming a member of the Chevruta Society, you will inspire and galvanize our community of donors. You will also enjoy special events and benefits in recognition of your contribution to the Fellowship.

To join and for more information, please contact Ashlie Flood at ashlie@bronfman.org.