

## THE BRONFMAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS IN ISRAEL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Bronfman Youth Fellowships Announce 20<sup>th</sup> Application Season**

*Outstanding High School Students from Diverse Jewish Backgrounds to Study in Israel and Participate in Community Service at Home*

Albany, NY- Oct. 10, 2005- The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for its 20<sup>th</sup> summer. The Fellowships take a group of 26 outstanding high school students to Israel for five weeks of intensive study and travel. The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel was founded by Edgar M. Bronfman, President of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation.

The Fellowships offer an opportunity for students entering the twelfth grade to participate in the intensive five-week program, designed to develop future community leaders committed to Jewish unity. Fellows represent diverse Jewish backgrounds.

Traveling throughout Israel, the Fellows participate in seminars and dialogues with diverse rabbinic faculty. Fellows also spend a week with a group of Israeli peers who have been chosen through a parallel selection process as part of the Israeli Youth Fellowship, Amitei Bronfman. Bronfman Youth Fellows commit to 40 hours of community service when returning home after the summer.

In explaining the purpose of the Fellowships, Edgar Bronfman said, "Our hope is to open lines of communication among a group of outstanding young people on the major issues confronting the Jewish people in all its diversity. In that process, we believe, they will discover that there is a common Jewish agenda that transcends the differences among them."

In his recent book, *What It Really Takes to Get Into Ivy League and Other Highly Selective Colleges*, Chuck Hughes lists the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel first in discussing, "the top scholarship programs particularly noted for producing winners who year after year are among the strongest candidates for admissions to highly selective institutions."

There are now 495 Bronfman Fellowship alumni, the majority of whom still take part in alumni activities and projects. Professionally, BYFI alumni include former U.S. Supreme Court Clerks, Rhodes, Fulbright and Marshall Scholars, celebrated authors, journalists and producers with leading news organizations such as The New York Times and NBC, doctors, lawyers, teachers, academics, and clergy. Young leaders of note

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among Fellowship alumni include Jonathan Tepperman, Senior Editor of *Foreign Affairs*, Daniel Handler, aka Lemony Snicket, author of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, Jonathan Safran Foer, author of *Everything is Illuminated*, Noah Oppenheim, a producer of the Today Show on NBC, Tali Farhadian, Rhodes Scholar and current Supreme Court clerk, and Sam Rascoff, former Supreme Court clerk and former assistant to Paul Bremmer in Iraq.

“We view the summer as something much bigger than just five weeks in Israel,” said Rabbi Shimon Felix, Executive Director of the program. “It is the beginning of a lifelong association with the Fellows and our faculty from which both participants and the Jewish people will benefit.”

Applications for the 2006 Fellowship are available online starting October 10<sup>th</sup> at [www.bronfman.org](http://www.bronfman.org). High school students in the United States and Canada, who will be in the twelfth grade in the fall of 2006 may apply.

#### About The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel and The Samuel Bronfman Foundation

The Bronfman Youth Fellowship sends 26 outstanding North American teenagers to Israel, for five weeks of intensive summer study to experience a shared sense of Jewish community. The program was founded by Edgar M. Bronfman and is funded by The Samuel Bronfman Foundation (TSBF), which focuses on projects dedicated to fostering a Jewish renaissance. TSBF is an active supporter of the Hillel: The Foundation for Campus Jewish Life, The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, The Curriculum Initiative, and MyJewishLearning.com

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