



The Samuel Bronfman Foundation Announces Schedule for “Why Be Jewish?” Conference

New York, NY – July 9, 2007— The Samuel Bronfman Foundation announced its schedule for the conference “Why Be Jewish?” being held July 29th – 31st in Park City, Utah. Adam Bronfman, the Foundation’s managing director, and Rabbi Eliyahu Stern, the conference coordinator, will serve as hosts. Participants in the conference’s three days of presentations, study and discussion include an international group of leading Jewish writers and thinkers, who seek to place ideas, values, and long-term vision at the forefront of Jewish philanthropy and public policy planning

The conference will commence on the evening of Sunday, July 29th with a presentation on “The Requisite Polemic to Why be Jewish: In Praise of Jewish-Christian Disputation” by Charlotte Fonrobert, Associate Professor in the Religious Studies department of Stanford University, and author of *Menstrual Purity: Rabbinic and Christian Reconstructions of Biblical Gender*.

The lead plenary session of the conference, presented by The Samuel Bronfman Foundation in conjunction with Temple Har Shalom, is a public conversation on: “Why be Religious in an Age of Fundamentalism?” and will feature French intellectual Bernard-Henri Lévy, Israeli spiritual leader Tova Hartman and American literary critic Leon Wieseltier. The conversation begins at 8pm on Monday, July 30th at the Stein Eriksen Lodge in Park City, Utah, and is open to the public.

Eliyahu Stern said, "We have assembled some of the finest minds in the Jewish world today with the hope of changing Jewish identity discussions from an issue of the quantity of Jews to a more substantive conversation on the quality, content and core values that animate Jewish life."

Additional panels throughout the three-day conference will include a Monday evening dinner panel on “Inter-Faith Marriage, new Anti-Semitism and the Redefinition of Jewish Peoplehood”, presented by Avi Weiss, Founder and Dean of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, and David Ellenson, President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. As

well as a final presentation, on Tuesday morning: “Truth and the Possibilities of Learning in Identity Fashioning” by Leon Wieseltier.

About The Samuel Bronfman Foundation

The Samuel Bronfman Foundation (TSBF) focuses on projects dedicated to fostering a Jewish renaissance. TSBF is an active supporter of Hillel: The Foundation for Campus Jewish Life, The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, The Curriculum Initiative, and MyJewishLearning.com. More information about TSBF can be found at www.TheSBF.org

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