

From: **THE SAMUEL BRONFMAN FOUNDATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JEWISH THOUGHT LEADERS DISCUSS JUDAISM AS CIVILIZATIONS AT WHY BE JEWISH GATHERING IN UTAH JUNE 29-JULY 1

Twenty-five of the world's most distinguished Jewish thought leaders – including writer and literary critic Leon Wieseltier, author and MacArthur Foundation “Genius Grant” recipient Rebecca Goldstein, Emory University professor Deborah Lipstadt, Polish-Jewish activist Konstanty Gebert, Brussels Parliament member Viviane Teitelbaum Hirsch, leading Mexican intellectual and publisher Enrique Krauze and former Israeli Knesset member Avraham Burg – will spend three days discussing and dissecting the emergence of tribalism and secularism in world Jewry and how these two trends inform what it means to be Jewish in the 21st Century at the “Why Be Jewish” gathering next month. The program, sponsored by The Samuel Bronfman Foundation, runs from June 29th to July 1st in Park City, Utah.

“The Samuel Bronfman Foundation is proud to host our second summer conference in two years. We believe that the issues confronting our Jewish communities today deserve serious inquiry. We are excited to undertake such an exercise with a group of great thinkers from many different areas of the Jewish world. We believe that our efforts to further our understanding of our world will make us more effective in our ability to serve our mission,” remarked Adam R. Bronfman, managing Director of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation.

The conference is under the auspices of the Bronfman Vision Forum, a separate arm of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation rooted in its belief that Jewish renaissance is grounded in Jewish learning. The Forum offers opportunities and venues for cultural influentials, Jewish thought leaders and those who believe in the power of ideas and learning to come together, collaborate, and infuse Jewish life with intellectual dynamism.

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 Jewish Campus Life, The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, The Curriculum Initiative and MyJewishLearning.com. More information about TSBF can be found at www.TheSBF.org.

The participants are:

- Dr. Ruth Bevan - Senior Professor of Political Science, Yeshiva University
- Avraham Burg – Former Israeli Knesset member and former Chairman of the Jewish Agency
- Patricia Cohen – Culture writer for *The New York Times*
- Esther Dischereit - Berlin-based Jewish-German author and filmmaker. She is the author of *Lessons in Being Jewish*. Her most recent film is *A Dress from Warsaw (Ein Kleid aus Warschau)*
- Dr. Arnold Eisen – Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary
- Wayne Firestone – President of Hillel International
- Jonathan Freedland - British-based religion columnist of *The Guardian*
- Konstanty Gebert - Polish columnist for the *Gazeta Wyborcza*, leading Jewish activist and was one of the leaders of the Solidarity movement in Poland
- Beatrice Godlewicz - Belgium-based secular Jewish high school headmaster and artist
- Dr. Rebecca Goldstein - Author of *Betraying Spinoza* and recipient of MacArthur Foundation's "genius grant"
- Gidi Grinstein - President and founder of the Reut Institute
- Viviane Teitelbaum Hirsch - Member of the Brussels Parliament and author of *Hidden Children, Tears Behind the Mask*
- Dr. Enrique Krauze - Mexican historian and essayist, and president and publisher of *Editorial Clío* and the cultural magazine *Letras Libres*
- Rabbi Benny Lau - Young Israeli spiritual leader of the Ramban synagogue in Jerusalem and lecturer at Bar-Ilan University
- Dr. Deborah Lipstadt – Professor at Emory University
- Dr. Judith Liwerant - Argentinean-born Professor of Political Science at the University of Mexico
- Dr. David Myers – Professor of Jewish History at University of California Los Angeles and author of the forthcoming *Between Jew and Arab: The Lost Voice of Simon Rawidowicz*
- Esther Perel - Therapist and best-selling author of *Mating in Captivity*
- Daniel Septimus - Editor-in Chief of MyJewishLearning.com
- Gabor Szanto - Hungarian writer and editor of Hungarian Jewish weekly *Szombat*
- Dr. Shmuel Trigano - Professor of Sociology at Paris X- Nanterre and president of l'Observatoire du monde juif and director of the Collège des études juives de l'Alliance israélite universelle
- Leon Wieseltier - Writer and literary critic

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