

THE BRONFMAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS IN ISRAEL 2009 SUMMER SCHEDULE

The enclosed itinerary is a day-by-day account of the 2009 BYFI summer schedule.

There are, however, aspects of the summer which cannot be conveyed through a list of activities. Briefly, we would like to explain the heart of the Fellowship program and hopefully give you a taste of what the experience is like. Afterward, on the following pages, you will find a key to some of the more frequently used terms in the itinerary and the itinerary itself.

The Fellowship has three main objectives:

First, to create and sustain a diverse community. This is done through study, through discussion, and through an ongoing effort to define communal behavior -- ritual and otherwise -- without any a priori assumptions. Questions such as: "How do we celebrate *Shabbat* as a community without compromising personal integrity?" are addressed.

Second, to see how classical and modern Jewish texts are relevant to these challenges, and to make these texts accessible to those who have had little or no prior exposure to them. In keeping with our goal of diversity, we seek to demonstrate the different approaches to these texts taken by a cross-denominational faculty. It is our experience that fresh perspectives from those who encounter these texts for the first time have enriched the learning experience for the faculty and the Fellows. More than any other part of the program, this form of communal study poignantly demonstrates how much we have to learn from each other.

Third, to learn about Israel and experience the land and its people. All of our faculty have either spent extensive time in Israel or are Israelis themselves. They are committed to dealing with such difficult questions as: "How does one forge a strong relationship to Israel while choosing to remain in the Diaspora?", "Where is 'home' for the Jewish people?", and "What does it mean for a Jewish State to have an army?" We also explore the feelings that Israelis have toward those who choose to love Israel from afar. A week-long *Mifgash* — encounter — with our parallel Israeli Fellowship program, Amitei Bronfman (Hebrew for "Bronfman Fellows"), is a central component of the summer, and is one of the most important elements in our attempt to come to grips with the modern Jewish State.

As we are constantly evaluating and updating the program, the schedule for the Summer 2010 Bronfman Fellowship Program will not be exactly the same as the 2009 schedule. However, the following schedule of the past summer's program should give Fellowship applicants a reasonably accurate picture of the kinds of activities in which Bronfman Fellows participate.

Here are some of the key components of the summer itinerary:

Speakers: Most of the speakers participating in the Bronfman Fellowship program are Israelis who come to explain different perspectives on Israeli political life, Israeli and Jewish culture, and Israeli society. Attention is given to exposing Fellows to a wide range of views. It is the faculty's goal to help the Fellows interpret the feelings and thoughts stemming from their individual political and personal perspectives.

Shiurim: *Shiurim* is Hebrew for classes (in the singular: *shiur*). During the summer each member of the faculty teaches a course of his/her own design and choosing. There will also be other study sessions that involve the study of classical and contemporary Jewish texts. At these sessions, the Fellows study texts in pairs, in small groups or in traditional lecture format. Most of the study is interactive, requiring the participation of teacher and student. All texts are available in the original language, with English translation. It is our experience that everyone -- regardless of background -- contributes equally to these sessions.

Chevruta Learning: This is the traditional Talmudic, dialectical approach to study, done orally and usually in pairs.

Journal Writing and Reading: Everyone is expected to keep a daily journal and regularly read or share a selection from it. This is an integral part of the program that has enriched the group and the faculty in many ways.

Tiyulim (trips): During the summer there are a number of excursions that the group takes. We spend time in the north of the country as well as the Negev. We also climb Metzada. These excursions are designed to exercise the body as well as the mind and heart. Exploration of and developing a relationship to the land of Israel is a significant part of the Fellowship experience.

The seventeenth of Tammuz, the Three Weeks, the Nine Days and Tisha B'Av: The traditional days on which we mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples. Many of these days fall in the summer.

Shabbat: On *Shabbat*, the Fellows will sometimes create their own Shabbat experience, will visit a variety of local synagogues, and share the traditional *Shabbat* meals together.

Bet Midrash: Literally, house of study. In these sessions all of the Fellows get together to study as a group.

In spite of the structured nature of the summer program, the faculty will respond to the needs, interests and concerns of the Fellows and is prepared to alter the schedule accordingly. In past summers, the program has also been changed in response to unfolding events in Israel.

**The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel
2009 Summer Orientation Schedule**

Orientation, June 29 – June 30

Monday, June 29

- 12:45 PM Staff introductions
- 1:15 PM Ice Breaker
- 1:45 PM Introduction of major themes by faculty: Israel, Pluralism, Text Study
- 2:00 PM Opening text study: "Make for yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a friend"
- 3:45 PM Personal Timeline. Looking forward to sharing a personal goal and a communal goal
- 5:30 PM Break
- 6:30 PM Dinner
- 8:00 PM Group Meeting – guidelines for the summer
- 9:00 PM Expectations of Israel. *Tourists* by Yehuda Amichai

Tuesday, June 30

- 8:30 AM Leave hotel with all luggage
- 9:30 AM Breakfast at Beth Elohim
- 10:30 AM Brooklyn American Jewish Life, Greenwood Cemetery.
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 4:00 PM Bus to JFK
- 7:55 PM EL AL Flight to Israel

Wednesday, July 1

- 1:30 PM Land at Ben Gurion Airport
- 4:00 PM Arrive at Goldstein Youth Village
General and Security orientation
- 5:00 PM Dinner
- 6:00 PM To Tayeret for 'arriving', opening sessions

Thursday, July 2

- 7:15 AM Wakeup
- 8:00 AM Breakfast – take packed lunch
- 8:30 AM Walk and session in San Simon
- 10:30 AM To Mall
- 1:30 PM Malcha Mall, ask questions of passersby, time to write in journals
- 5:00 PM Shiur #1
- 6:30 PM Dinner @ Goldstein
- 7:00 PM Shabbat committees formed and meet w/ Madrichim (counselors)
- 8:15 PM To Ehad Banai @ Jerusalem Theater

Friday, July 3

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Shiur #2
- 10:00 AM Staff - Personal views on Shabbat
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:15 PM Group prepares for Shabbat
- 4:15 PM Journal reading
- 6:00 PM To synagogues
Dinner at Goldstein Youth Village w/ Director of Alumni Engagement

Shabbat, July 4 – Balak

- 9:00 AM To synagogues
Eat lunch at staff homes
- 5:30 PM Shiur on the Zodiac, luck, and Judaism, Parsha players, Seudah shlishit
- 8:35 PM havdalah
- 9:30 PM Concert w/ Julie Geller

Sunday, July 5

- 8:30 AM Shiur #3
- 10:00 AM To Israel Museum, Source Book on Temple, Fellows' expectations of Kotel, faculty on the Kotel
- 12:30 PM Lunch @ Goldstein
- 4:00 PM To Southern Wall and Kotel, Journaling, dinner in Jewish Quarter
- 8:00 PM Kotel Tunnels
- 9:30 PM Bus back to Goldstein

Monday July 6

- 8:30 AM To Old City; David's Citadel, Mt. Zion, Room of the Last Supper, Jewish Quarter, Herodian Quarter, Cardo.
- 1:00 PM Back to Goldstein, lunch, rest
- 5:00 PM Isabel Kershner of the NY Times
- 6:30 PM Dinner
- 7:00 PM Shiur #4

Tuesday, July 7

- 8:30 AM To Rechov Haneviim, Bet Harav Kook, Bet Ticho, Yemin Moshe, Emek Refaim
- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 7:00 PM Shiur #1

Wednesday, July 8

- 8:00 AM To Tel Aviv
- 10:00 AM Etgar Keret at ZOA, Kikar Rabin, Shenkin
- 5:00 PM To beach, dinner

Thursday, July 9 – 17th of Tammuz

- 8:30 AM Shiur #2
- 10:00 AM Intro to 17 of Tammuz (Sourcebook)
- 10:15 AM Chevruta on tanuro *shel achnai – lo bashamayim he*
Optional shiurim in the afternoon
- 8:30 AM Dinner for fasters
Pack for north

Friday, July 10

- 8:00 AM To Bet Shearim, tour and session – Start of *Shimon bar Yochai* story
To Zippori, Tour, session on Judaism & Hellenism – Aphrodite
Arrive in Zfat
Synagogues and dinner

Shabbat, July 11, Parshat Pinchas

- 9:00 AM Egalitarian service, discussion session on gender and prayer
- 11:00 AM Kiddush
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 5:30 PM Shiur on the Parsha – The Daughters of Zelaphchad
- 6:30 PM Parsha Players
- 7:30 PM Seudah shlishit
- 8:30 PM Havdalah
- 9:00 PM Film *Ushpizin*, then free time

Sunday, July 12

8:30 AM Shiur #3
 10:00 AM To Golan, Mitzpe Gadot, hike the Yehudia
 6:00 PM Dinner back in Zfat, discussion on intermarriage
 Late night visit to the Ari shul, Davidka, and Zfat cemetery.

Monday, July 13

8:30 AM Shiur #4
 Talmud study – Finish "*Shimon Bar Yochai*" in 4 groups
 Prep for Meron
 10:30 AM To Meron, lunch
 Kinneret, Mid-term talks

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 AM Golan, Bental, Merom Golan, chocolate factory, mid-term talks continue
 Prep for Mifgash, prepare presentations
 5:00 PM Mifgash begins with Ice breaking activities
 6:30 PM Dinner
 7:30 PM Ice breaking, **Session**

Wednesday, July 15

8:30 AM To Haifa
 10:30 AM Meet w/ AB Yehoshua @ Haifa U.
 Lunch, session/processing of AB Yehoshua
 Session – Reuven, Gad – Israel/Diaspora in the Torah
 3:00 PM To Achziv Beach, dinner on beach – **Note in a hat**

Thursday, July 16

Sessions – Israel Day, presentations by Fellows and Amitim
 Lunch
 To Kayaks
 5:00 PM Leave to houses

Friday, July 17 Home hospitality**Shabbat, July 18 Parshat Matot-Masaey - home hospitality****Sunday, July 19**

12:00 noon Meet in Sdeh Boker - group processing of weekend, session on desert
 1:00 PM Lunch at Sdeh Boker
 Hike
 6:30 PM Dinner
 7:30 PM Session on identity and values, then Night Hike

Monday, July 20

Hike and jeep ride, Ein Avdat and the Machtsh

Tuesday, July 21

Eilat
 Return to Jerusalem via Dead Sea by 9 PM

Wednesday, July 22 – Rosh Chodesh Av

8:30 AM Final Sessions
 10:00 AM Close of Mifgash, Processing
 Midrash on newspapers, political prep.
 12:30 PM Lunch
 1:30 PM To Supreme Court
 3:00 PM To Knesset, foreign ministry, meet w/ David Segal.
 5:30 PM Back to Goldstein

6:00 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Shiur #1
Prep for Yad Vashem and Har Herzl, and screening of *Waltz w/ Bashir*

Thursday, July 23

8:30 AM Prep for Yad Vashem and Har Herzl - Agnon
9:20 AM To Yad Vashem, Har Herzl
4:00 PM Back to Goldstein
6:00 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Yossie Klein Halevi, then prep. For Mezada
2:00 AM Bus to Mezada

Friday, July 24

Climb Mezada
Back to Goldstein, rest
4:15 PM Journal Reading
Local synagogues, dinner at Goldstein

Shabbat July 25 - Parshat Devarim

To local synagogues or optional shiur
Lunch at faculty homes
5:30 PM Shiur – Gershom Scholem on Who is a Jew?
6:30 PM Parsha Players, seudah shlishit
8:30 PM Havdalah, Shiur #1, film

Sunday, July 26

8:30 AM Meet with Facing History Facing Ourselves
10:00 AM Go to MEET at Givat Ram.
1:00 PM lunch @ Goldstein
4:30 PM Dr. Adel Mana, Arab-Israeli speaker
6:30 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Yehuda Shaul of Shovrim Shtika
8:30 PM Bonfire at Goldstein

Monday, July 27

8:30 AM To Belz Synagogue
10:30 AM Meet w/ Ilana Sumka of Encounter
12:00 PM Lunch at Goldstein
1:00 PM To Kiryat Moriah, Bet Morasha
5:00 PM Shiur #2
6:30 PM Dinner at Goldstein
7:15 PM Q&A with faculty

Tuesday, July 28

8:45 AM Rabbi Seth Farber of Itim
10:00 AM To Conservative Yeshiva, Rabbi Shmuel Lewis
12:30 PM Anat Hoffman at Bet Shmuel (Room 401)
Lunch
To Mamilla, Shiur #3
6:30 PM Dinner at Goldstein
Film - Unsettled

Wednesday, July 29

8:30 AM Shiur #4
10:00 AM To Jerusalem Open House
To Meah Shearim
Prepare for Tisha B'Av - Shimon
7:00 PM To Teyelet for Tisha B'Av services

Thursday, July 30 – Tisha B'Av

Shiurim

Friday, July 31

- 8:30 AM Shiur #1
- 10:00 AM Journal Reading
- 11:30 AM Bus to Machane Yehuda
- 2:30 PM Bus back to Goldstein
- Prepare for Shabbat
- 6:00 PM Synagogues, dinner

Shabbat Parshat V'etchanan, August 1

- To synagogues
- Lunch at faculty homes
- 5:00 PM Shiur Rav Nachman and Rene Magritte: This is Not a Pipe.
- 6:30 PM Parsha Players, Seudah Shlishit
- 8:30 PM Havdalah
- Talent show

Sunday, August 2

- 8:30 AM Shiur #2
- 10:30 AM Dyonna Ginsburg of B'ma'agley Tzedek
- 12:30 PM Lunch at Goldstein
- 2:00 PM Leave to Palmachim Beach

Monday, August 3

- 8:30 AM Shiur #3
- 10:30 AM Dr. Steve Cohen
- Lunch @ Goldstein
- 4:00 PM To Old City, Kotel, Jewish Quarter
- 6:30 PM Walk to Ben Yehuda Street, dinner in town
- To Chutzot Hayotser, Ivri Leader concert
- 11:30 PM Back to Goldstein

Tuesday, August 4

- 9:00 AM Shiur #4
- 10:30 AM Alumni life, social action projects
- Evaluations, Individual conversations
- 6:00 PM To Banquet @ Bet Shalom

2009 FOLLOW-UP SEMINAR (11/1-11/3)

The Fall follow-up seminar is a time when all Fellows and staff meet in New York and spend two intense days together renewing the summer's friendships and experiences. It is also a time to discuss the effects that the program is having on the Fellow's involvement in Jewish life and to launch alumni projects.

2009 MIFGASH WINTER GATHERING (12/10-12/13)

This retreat is a 4 day event including *Shabbat*, giving everyone a chance to reconnect with the *Amitim* and each other. We will also use this occasion to launch and/or maintain alumni projects.