



From left: Former Israeli Minister of Justice and Finance Dan Meridor, Madame Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella of Canada's Supreme Court, Andrew Hauptman, Ellen Bronfman Hauptman, Charles Bronfman, Dr. Amitai Ziv, Claudine Blondin Bronfman, Stephen Bronfman and Dr. Jeffrey Solomon

## Everyone's a Winner

Charles Bronfman raised his children with a legacy of philanthropic giving. That is why when Stephen Bronfman and Ellen Bronfman Hauptman sought the perfect birthday gift for him, they decided to set up The Charles Bronfman Prize|| **Jonathan Danilowitz**

**W**e've all faced the question at one time or another: What do you get for 'the man who has everything'? When Stephen Bronfman and his sister Ellen Bronfman Hauptman were searching for a significant gift for their father Charles' 70th birthday, they knew that the answer wouldn't be just another silk tie or set of gold cufflinks. Charles, scion of the well-known Canadian Bronfman family, had brought up his children with a legacy of philanthropic giving. So instead of giving him "the gift that keeps on coming", they decided to give him "the gift that keeps on giving". In his honor, they created The Charles Bronfman Prize.

The apple does not fall far from the tree, so Stephen and his wife Claudine and Ellen and her husband Andrew had a clear vision of what their father would most likely appreciate as a birthday gift. They had seen countless examples of his own philanthropy, which didn't start (or end) with Israel. For example, The CRB Foundation – CRB is short for Charles R. Bronfman – funded a documentary short-

film feature honoring Canadian achievers from all walks of life and recognizing their contribution to the country. Yet the children still felt it only right to check first with their father, to make sure that he was okay with establishing this Prize in his name!

The Charles Bronfman Prize salutes the vision and talent of people whose humanitarian work has contributed significantly to improving our world. Its goal is to bring public recognition to individuals whose Jewish values infuse their humanitarian accomplishments and provide inspiration to coming generations. Surprise! The Prize is in no way exclusive to Jewish recipients. The Prize's mandate stresses "Jewish values", which means that anyone who can demonstrate those values in their accomplishments, is eligible to win. Although the Prize's website ([www.thecharlesbronfmanprize.com](http://www.thecharlesbronfmanprize.com)) is in English only, it is headed by the word "welcome" in no less than 10 languages. This accurately reflects the universality of the Prize's prospective recipients. So far, the Prize has been awarded three times, all to Jewish nominees.

However, according to Dr. Jeffrey Solomon, President of The Charles and Andrea Bronfman Philanthropies and trustee of The Charles Bronfman Prize, scores of people have been nominated over the past four years since the Prize was established, from all walks of life and from extremely diverse backgrounds. "If Schindler (of "Schindler's List" fame – JD) had been nominated 50 years ago, ▷

 **business class** >> **the israeli connection**


Stephen Bronfman, prize founder

◁ there is almost no doubt that he would have won, even though he wasn't Jewish. The judges are looking for persons (or groups) who have adopted Jewish values, and the ultimate such value is 'choose life'. It is a universal value, which is why the Prize is unrestricted".

In fact there is just one major restriction: The recipients must be under 50 years of age. Says Solomon: "We seek recipients who exhibit innovative vision, leadership and impact in their chosen field; today's heroes, who are going to be an inspiration for coming generations". The Charles Bronfman Prize's emphasis on age is to ensure that the recipients are young enough to continue their inspiring work and serve as beacons for other young people to aspire to change the world for the better.

An unusual feature of The Charles Bronfman Prize is that it is not focused and restricted to only one field of endeavour, but is rather as broad and humanitarian as possible, thus enabling any young person with vision, determination and proven success in any field that advances the Prize's principles, to be a potential recipient. The broadness reflects Charles Bronfman himself, a man whose largesse and generosity has "changed the world" for so many people, in so many ways. Stephen and Ellen hope that the Prize recipients will inspire others to "change the world" too.

Besides being inspiring, motivating and extremely gratifying, the Prize serves as a stepping stone for the recipients to continue to advance in their chosen fields and hopefully inspire others to follow. The honor and dignity of the three extraordinary recipients, all of whom wholly embody the qualities the judges seek in the nominees, only add to the enriching humanitarian value of the Prize. Recognition by

The Charles Bronfman Prize judges is an honor which can only grow in stature and impact.

And who are the judges? Firstly, Charles Bronfman himself is not involved, although Stephen and Ellen do participate in the final selection process. The three main judges bring immeasurable prestige to the Prize: The Honorable Dan Meridor, former Minister of Justice and Minister of Finance in Israel, The Honorable Madame Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella of Canada's Supreme Court and The Honorable James Wolfensohn, former President of the World Bank and Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement.

In 2002 the Bronfmans themselves were awarded Honorary Citizenship of Jerusalem. They were only the second and third North Americans ever to receive this honor. Of the only 44 recipients ever to be honored this way, by far the majority are Israelis.

The Charles Bronfman Prize reflects the respect and admiration that Stephen Bronfman and his sister Ellen Bronfman Hauptman have for their father. Charles Bronfman's passion for humanitarianism is legendary, so it is not surprising that both Ellen and Stephen (and their spouses Andrew and Claudine) are influential players in many philanthropic endeavours. Besides her business activities, Ellen is active in The Hauptman Family Foundation, The Zoe Saidye Hauptman Memorial Fund and The Charles Bronfman Prize Foundation. Stephen is President of The Stephen R. Bronfman Foundation and active in The Saidye Bronfman Center for the Arts, The Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation and The Summit School Foundation. He is involved in extensive business and philanthropic endeavors in both North America and Israel.

Yes, these apples did not fall far from the tree. The tree has sent down deep roots and will hopefully continue to bear fruit for many years, fruit that most people will enjoy without ever knowing the true source. May the Prize continue to award us all – citizens of the world – with a00 realistic hope for a better, safer and more peaceful future. □



Charles Bronfman (left) and prize recipient Dr. Amitai Ziv