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www.brandeisphoenix.com

AUGUST 2016



Welcome to the exciting 2016 - 2017 BNG Phoenix Study Group Season





The Study Group Guide will be arriving soon.

Most of your favorite groups are back,
as well as many creative, informative and FUN
new ones! We have ADVENTURE and BOOK
groups, LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE,
ART APPRECIATION and ART STUDIO groups,
GAMES and OUT ON THE TOWN groups
and, of course, the wildly popular
MOVIE and FOOD groups!







Click HERE for a Membership Form.



Suspense

Watch your email for the Study Group Guide and Registration Form - coming out soon!

More details are on pages 3 and 4.





Co-Presidents' Message

Dear Members of the Brandeis Community:

Since our last president's message in June, our new board, standing committees, and many of our members have been working hard and playing harder in spite of the torrid temperatures.

The board members had an opportunity to meet our chapter's Brandeis scholarship recipient: Cassidy Swartz, her mother and brother at our last

meeting. With pride in Cassidy's accomplishments, we celebrated her graduation cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Health: Science, Society and Policy. (This degree is only available at Brandeis University.)

Our Study Group Vice Presidents Ronee Siegel and Susie Sacks, along with Sara Leopold, have been working diligently on our new Study Guide for 2016-2017. It will be released by e-blast in mid-August, with a link describing the groups and another link to the registration form. There are 48 study groups, 11 of which are new. We are sure that everyone will find something, if not everything, of interest!

Proceeds from study groups pay the administrative expenses of the chapter and the excess funds are allocated to the maintenance and digitization of the library at Brandeis University. If you are an annual member, please make sure that you have paid your dues for 2016-2017. Only current members can register for study groups. Groups fill up fast, and you do not want to be delayed in having your registration form processed. For a Membership Form, click HERE.

Leith Baletin and Nan Waldman, Membership Vice Presidents, and their committee have succeeded in bringing us many new members. They have been introducing them to each other, and our other members. Advice on the procedures for registering for study groups and information about the activities offered by the Phoenix Chapter has been shared.

The programming committee, under our new Vice President Sandy Itkowitz, has planned a phenomenal variety of exciting events for the coming season. You are not going to want to miss any of them.

Please mark your calendar for our "Autumn in Paradise Luncheon" on Friday October 21st featuring two performers from the Arizona Opera: soprano vocalist Lauren Berman and pianist Thomas Nixon.

Saturday evening November 12th Chris Caldwell, a famous mentalist from Las Vegas, will entertain us. The Theater Artists Studio will be performing *The Herd* exclusively for us on Saturday evening December 10th. That is just what is planned for this year - January to April will be equally exciting.

As if all of the above is not enough to look forward to, Carol Abrams and Marcy Strauss, as co-chairs with their various committees, are planning the fantastic annual Book and Author event in March. Each year it seems to be better than the last. Although our volunteers are making tremendous strides this summer, it is not "all work and no play" thanks to our Summer Camp coordinators: Stephanie Klopper, Sheila Landau, Beth Messer and our many tireless facilitators. We are having a fun-filled summer with indoor activities every day which keep our minds stimulated, our bodies active and our social lives full. We hope to see you at many of the study groups and our other wonderful programs.

Iris Wigal and Nancy Sacks, Co-presidents

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Study Group News 2016 - 2017

It's finally here - the BNC 2016 - 2017 Study Group season! Most of your favorite activities are returning, plus we have several new offerings, for a total of 48 groups. We are delighted to present a wonderful array of activities from which to choose - there is something fun and interesting for every BNC Phoenix member.



ART: Continuing this year are Studio Art and Bistro Lunch and Phoenix Art Museum Tours, along with our new Let's Get Creative crafting group.

THE ARTS: Arizona Author Speaker Series and Concerts and Conversations are returning, along with At the Ballet and the new Acting is Fun!

BOOKS: Brandeis members love to read. Joining the returning Jewish Book Group, Books for the Armchair Traveler and B-Puzzled: Mystery and Suspense Group are the new Classics Book Group and the Bellasera Book Group.



CINEMA: If you like going to the movies, you have two choices: **Camelview, Shea 14 Review and Lunch** and **Friday Matinee Movie and Lunch**. In addition, **Study with the Best: Broadway on Film** will "feature" discussions of three films, using Brandeis-authored and other materials.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: BNC Phoenix continues to give back to the community as **Knit a Mitzvah** returns to knit or crochet scarves and newborn baby caps for donations to local organizations and hospitals.



FITNESS: Stay fit with BNC friends as the Intermediate Hiking Club, Leisure Hiking, Bowling for Fun, Play Golf, Yoga and Neighborhood Walks return for your health and enjoyment.

FOOD: Our ever-popular **Lunch Bunch** and **Neighborhood Haunts** groups are back, complemented by **Dessert - How Sweet It Is** (new name). Joining them is our new **Ethnic Dining** group

GAMES: Seasoned gamers or eager beginners - we have a group for you! There is **Bridging It!** for intermediate bridge players, along with the **Beginners**, **Advanced Beginners (New)** and **Intermediate Mah-Jongg** groups. Joining these groups, we have three groups where you can learn new games: **Canasta for Beginners**, **Poker - Texas Hold 'Em**, and **Learn Chinese Mah-Jongg!**



INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS: If current events are to your liking, two **Contemporary Issues** groups return, along with the aptly named **Current Events** group.

Study Groups Continued



MEN OF BRANDEIS: The extremely popular and active **Men of Brandeis** (MOB) group returns for a sixth year with an exciting schedule of discussions, activities - and of course, lunch!



SPECIAL INTEREST: Returning this year are **Promoting Healthy Relationships** and **Understanding the American Elections Process** with new perspectives. Joining them will be the new **Shalom Hebrew** group.

VALLEY ADVENTURES: Calling all explorers! Antique Gatherings, Boomers, Cultural Sites in AZ, Girls' Night Out, Phoenicians of BNC and Sun Lakes Potpourri are all back, along with the new Happy Hour group, Don't Worry, Be Happy!

REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

The cost per study group is \$20. Since many groups fill early, send in your registration form as soon as you can! If you've joined our groups before, then you already know how wonderful they are; if you're a new member, you have a real treat in store. Look through the Study Group Guide, join all the groups that interest you - and tell your friends!

Brandeis Study Groups are for the benefit of BNC members only. Contact Irene Lubin at 480-948-3773 or iwlubin@gmail.com for more information or to pay your membership dues by credit card.

Watch for the Study Group Guide and Registration Form, which will be available on your computer, phone and tablet very soon. You will get an email as soon as it's available - keep an eye on your Inbox!

SPECIAL NOTE TO WINTER RESIDENTS

Since some Groups frequently reach their group maximums very quickly, we suggest signing up from wherever you are spending the summer months. Watch for the e-blast in August that will announce that the Guide is online.

For more information, please contact the Study Group VPs at phxstudygroups@gmail.com - Susie Sacks and Ronee Siegel, Study Group VPs

For details and to sign up for groups, see the Guide and Registration Form on our website: www.brandeis.phoenix.com/StudyGroups.html

STUDY GROUPS FUN FOR EVERYONE!

FITNESS







VALLEY ADVENTURES

















Knit a Mitzvah Study Froup

Do you Knit? Do you Crochet? Help us make Newborn Baby Caps

The Knit A Mitzvah Study Group has expanded its Social Justice outreach! Originally, the group members only made scarves that were distributed to the JFCS. Now we have added Newborn



Baby Caps to our repertoire. The caps are donated to Honor Health/Scottsdale Shea Medical Center which provides the pattern and the yarn! The caps are small, of course, and very easy to make, whether you knit or crochet. You do not have to be a member of the study group to participate.

For more information, please contact:

Ronee Siegel ronees@aol.com 917-273-0393

A Thank You Note from Honor Health Shea Medical Center for Baby Caps



Dear Brandeis National Committee, Phoenix Chapter,

On behalf of all of our families that deliver at Honor Health Shea Medical Center, I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for the beautiful hats that you knit for our newborns. When we get them delivered to our unit I look at every one of them and it truly brings a smile to my face knowing that all of you are taking time out of your busy day to make a difference for our new families. The hats become a personal memento of their birth experience.

Thank you, Lori-Ann, Clinical Director OB Couplet Care



MEMBERSHIP CONTACTS

To report life-cycle events please contact
Susan Sacks at 480-860-5256 or susan.sacks@gmail.com
To learn about becoming a member, please contact
Nan Waldman at 602-410-5639 or nanlarry@cox.net

Membership News

- Congratulations to Arlene Feldman on the marriage of her grandson, Sam Bernstein, to Caitlin Graham.
- Congratulations to Ronda and Sheldon Kottle on the arrival of their grandson Zachary Yale Richard. Kottle. Proud parents are Sara and Stuart Kottle.
- Our congratulations to Sheila Landau on the bar mitzvah of her grandson, Jacob Young.
- Our wishes for a speedy recovery to Sandy Blum.
- Our sincere condolences to the family of life member Barbara "Bobbe" Raefsky on her passing.



New and Rejoining Members

Robin Bobkin, Bonnie Brozosky, Nancy Chait, Janny Chan, Howard S. Cohen, Elaine German, Rita Getner, Maris Herzog, Fred Himovitz, David Horwitz, Nancy Kronenberg, Franklin S. Lange, Cheryl Lennon, Robert Marmon, Ilissa Miller, Ronald Nathan, Sheila Nathan, Myra Orkin, Joel Pierson, Leslie Prince, Arlene Rosenberg, Marsha Rotmistrovsky, Judy Samloff, Sandra Shelist, Regina Sherman, Bonnie Siegel, Harriet Siegel, Susan Silverman, Mort Sitver, Livia Steingart, Bob Tecktiel, Harriet Tecktiel, Nancy Waugh, Jane Weinstein



Chapter Roster

If you have recently moved, or changed your phone number or email address, please let Bruce Galin, our Chapter's Data Manager, know of those changes.



bruce.phxbnc@gmail.com. This will ensure you don't miss out on any Chapter mailings and information.

Chapter Membership Roster Available

The chapter membership roster is now available online by request. You must have an email address for us to provide secure access. Please send your request to Bruce Galin at bruce.phxbnc@gmail.com. You will be notified when your access is available.

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

 Leith Baletin
 Ibaletin@att.net
 480-874-9434

 Nan Waldman
 nanlarry@cox.net
 602-410-5639



Member to Member

Most of our members find out about BNC because they are invited to an event by a friend. With so many exciting programs and events coming up in our chapter, why not invite a friend to join you? Share Brandeis, invite your friend to:

- Attend a Study Group
- ♦ Meet & listen to a Brandeis professor at University on Wheels (UOW)
- Experience a cultural event
- Participate in a community service event

So bring a friend, neighbor, or family member to your next BNC chapter event, and share Brandeis!

Click HERE to display and print a Membership Form.



Did you know that all Chapter Board meetings are open to our members? You are welcome to join us the third Wednesday of every month (except for our July and August hiatus) at 10:30 am. If you are interested in attending, email either of our chapter presidents to let them know you are coming and for driving directions.

Nancy-Sacks Goldberg

nhshobo@aol.com

Iris Wigal

wiggley@cox.net



Planning is started on a variety of great events this coming season. Attend the Programming Meeting the 1st Monday of each month. Join a great committee and make new friends as we work on the details of our upcoming events.

For meeting locations, RSVP to: sandy.itkowitz@gmail.com VP of Programming 480-650-6779

Social Justice



Carol B's Children's Book Collection

On May 6th, Carol B's Children's Book Collection delivered 714 books to Monticello Elementary School (K-8) in the Alhambra School District. The total number of books delivered this school year is 2,274 to four different schools! Carol would be very pleased.

We continue to collect new and gently used children's books for local elementary schools.

For more information, please contact:

Dorry Sunenshine

dsunenshine@gmail.com
Ellen Kirschenbaum ellenk102@cox.net

"I'm wondering what to read next."
-- Matilda, Roald Dahl



Just 3 Things

Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS)

Real World Job Development
and Youth In Transition programs.

Help JFCS stock the **Just 3 Things** food pantry by donating non-perishable food items to provide a needy youth with food as they transition from foster care to independence.

Please visit the website for recommended items.

http://www.jfcsaz.org/

Julie Bronstein Ellen Kirschenbaum ellenk102@cox.net



A wonderful way to get involved with our local BNC Chapter is to share your expertise with us. It's a win-win! You get to meet some of the other members, maintain your skills and learn new ones, and the Chapter benefits from your experience.

The current skill sets needed are: SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITE, MARKETING, PUBLICITY

If you would like to volunteer in these or any other areas, contact Kathleen Witkin at witkinbnc@gmail.com 480-473-4825



Book Fund



For all your Book Fund needs, contact: Phyllis Becker,

9199 N. 107th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85258 480-838-1210 psb830@gmail.com We accept credit card donations, Visa or MasterCard, only.

For a donation form and additional information, Click HERE

Recipient Donor Occasion **LOUIS BRANDEIS CARD** Lynda Weckstein Family of Betty Baron In memory of a lovely lady Arlene and Irving Feldman Joanie and Harvey Bream In memory of dear brother-in-law Arlene and Irving Feldman In memory of grandson, Scott Metzner **BNC Board Phoenix Chapter** In memory of grandson, Scott Metzner Paula Corman Lynda Weckstein In memory of husband Joel Carla and Scott Schneider Shelly Dessen In memory of beloved Allan Phyllis Becker Arlene Feldman In honor of marriage of grandson Sam to Caitlin Sara and Jay Leopold In honor of marriage of grandson Sam to Caitlin Lori and Steve Roth In honor of marriage of Sam and Caitlin and Get well wishes to Arlene In honor of grandson's wedding and Nancy Sacks Get well wishes to Arlene **BNC Board Phoenix Chapter** Get well wishes to Arlene Iris Wigal Best wishes for a speedy recovery Bonnie Furst Mrs. Linda Flayton & Family In memory of sister, Joan Congratulations on 80th birthday Carla and Scott Schneider Martin Honig Sandy and Mark Itkowitz In honor of new granddaughter, Harper Rose Iris Wigal Harriet Schwartz In honor of grandson's Bar Mitzvah Sheila and Larry Landau Joan Lowell **Doris Perlmutter** Happy 80th Birthday Harriet Perlmutter Arlene and Irving Feldman Lori and Steve Roth In honor of son Ari's graduation SPECIAL TRIBUTE CARD Teri Fields In recognition of receiving prestigious Christopher Nan & Larry Waldman Literacy Award Nan & Larry Waldman Sandy and Mark Itkowitz In honor of new granddaughter, Harper Rose



You can establish a Book Fund Savings Account!
The account allows you to send Book Fund
Tributes with ease.
For more information contact Phyllis Becker.







A conversation with Brandeis President Ron Liebowitz

BrandeisNow spoke with the president as he prepared to take on his new role

Today, Brandeis welcomes its ninth president, Ronald D. Liebowitz. The former president of Middlebury College in Vermont, Liebowitz, 59, is a recognized leader in higher education. In 2009, Time magazine named him one of the 10 best U.S. college presidents. The native New Yorker received his BA in economics and geography at Bucknell University and his doctorate in geography at Columbia University. As he prepared for his new role, Liebowitz spoke to BrandeisNow about what brought him to the university, his impressions of Brandeis and its community, and his own research.

Q: As you begin serving as the ninth president of Brandeis, what are your thoughts on the university and your role?

RL: One of the most impressive things about Brandeis is how far it's come in only 68 years. It was founded in 1948, and yet it has a remarkable legacy in the quality of the faculty and the accomplishments of its alumni. I see my charge as president as celebrating that legacy and extending it into the future, so that subsequent generations have the opportunity

to study and research at a place of this quality.

Q: Since you were named president six months ago, you've spent many hours meeting with our community. What are your impressions?

RL: My overall impression is that everyone is passionate about Brandeis. People feel very strongly about the place. It's small enough that people feel a sense of ownership, even though it's a world-class research university. And people like to engage in issues very robustly, very openly, and we hope to continue that tradition.

Brandeis is recognizable everywhere we go. People who don't even know about my new role hear I live in Newton - not far from Brandeis - and they offer an opinion about Brandeis.

One of the funniest examples was when someone stopped me while I was food shopping and asked, "Are you the newly appointed president of Brandeis?" and then proceeded to give me an earful. I wanted to get to my shopping so I interjected and said, "Excuse me, from what class did you graduate?" And he said, "Oh, I didn't go to Brandeis."

Q: What was the most intriguing part of the challenge of taking on this position?

RL: What appealed to me were three things. First was the mission of the institution, which combines a dedication to excellent undergraduate education with a top-flight research university. I think this speaks to the needs of society in the 21st century. Combining a broad-based liberal arts education with opportunities for deeper research across the liberal arts and in the sciences will produce graduates who are likely to make a difference in the world.

The second fundamental factor was the excellence of the faculty. They are remarkably dedicated, productive and committed teachers, which really stands out and makes me optimistic about the future.

And the third was the very reason why Brandeis exists: Its founding took place at a time when the best American universities imposed quotas that prevented Jewish students with a proven track record of academic excellence from joining the very best academic institutions. When you study this history, it is really compelling to see this university founded on the basis of



A conversation with Brandeis President Ron Liebowitz continued

providing access to those previously denied, which to me represents an important part of its mission for the future.

Q: So do you see the founding principles as guiding the university in its future endeavors?

RL: I do. Being the only Jewishfounded secular institution of higher education in the United States does make Brandeis unique in many important ways.

The Jewish values on which Brandeis was founded really are universal. Academic excellence. Critical thinking, including self-critical thinking - so one includes one's own views when questioning positions - is fundamental to a vibrant educational enterprise. And tikkun olam, healing the world, using your knowledge and gifts to make others better and to help the world. All these values upon which the institution was founded are still relevant, and should be relevant to the future of the university.

Q: What you're describing sounds, as we like to say, "Brandeisian." You sound like you're already a Brandeisian.

RL: I might be a Brandeisian already because I believe very strongly in those three values. So yes, I might be a Brandeisian.

Q: When you talked with students, they likely spoke about combining their intellectual efforts with a quest for social justice.

RL: I found the quest for social justice, the quest for bettering the world, prominent in every one of my conversations with students. I tried to steer those conversations into the question of being critical and self-critical. I asked students to tell me

exactly what their idea of social justice was. Their responses were interesting, though not always clear to me. I look forward to continuing this particular conversation this coming year.

Q: What are some of the ways in which you plan to connect with faculty?

RL: I'm looking forward to having many ways of engaging with the faculty, including visiting each department to familiarize myself with colleagues, learn how the department views its work and how that work ties into the university. My wife, Jessica, and I had monthly lunches with faculty at Middlebury, and we plan to do that here at Brandeis as well. Faculty at Brandeis seem to be as passionate about the university as the students and the alums, and they appear to have the same firm commitment to social justice as well.

Q: You and your wife, Jessica, have been on sabbatical for the past year doing research. What were you exploring?

RL: We are looking at the future of doctoral education in the U.S. Over my 11 years as president at Middlebury, the two of us hosted monthly lunches with faculty prior to their first pre-tenure review faculty in their first, second and third year of teaching. Many spoke eloquently about how their doctoral education did or did not prepare them for the rigors of being in front of a class at a place like Middlebury. The major theme from those many years of lunches was that the world was changing dramatically and quickly, and

higher education was not. For example, students coming into the classroom were highly technologically savvy and learned through a different [K-12] pedagogy from past generations of students. In addition, classroom demographics have changed rather dramatically, mirroring the country's changing demographics. As a result, faculty members were teaching to a very different audience, and they were not fully prepared for that.

So we began a Boston-area project, conducting focus groups with PhD candidates enrolled at PhD-granting institutions. We are now putting together a set of ideas and questions to go forward.

Q: Do you think this research will inform your leadership at Brandeis?

RL: Yes, I do. The research topic is fascinating in its own right, and it's interesting to me as an educator, period. But now being president of Brandeis, a research university, I think it's invaluable because I hear firsthand what's on the minds of the doctoral students from their perspective, from their generation, which will inform my own understanding of the challenges facing graduate education at Brandeis and beyond.

Page 1 -Photo/Mike Lovett July 1, 2016 Since 1948, BNC members have raised more than \$131 million to support Brandeis students, faculty, the library and cutting-edge research in neuroscience.

Donations

Sustaining
the Mind:
Scientific
Research
and Scholarship
in
Neurodegenerative
Diseases

Nancy Elkins and Derek Davis to David, Margaret and Mara Kaufman In memory of Sandra Malinas

Sherrymae Cohen to Celia Cohen Family In memory of Celia Cohen



To support the Sustaining the Mind Fund, contact Ronda Kottle ronda@kottlehome.com
For a donation form, Click HERE

Donations **BNC Scholarship Campaign**

Phoenix BNC Chapter Board to Allissa Messian and Family In memory of Pauline Green



Since our earliest days, the Brandeis National Committee has stood as a resolute partner with the University. Today, increasing funding for scholarship assistance for our students is the University's top priority. Consider that:

- Two out of three Brandeis students receives some form of financial aid. In the 2013-14 academic year, Brandeis awarded \$88.4 million in scholarship aid (undergraduates and graduate students).
- For the same period, the endowment and annual gifts designated to scholarships provided \$17.2 million (19.4% of the total financial aid budget).

Financial assistance plays a pivotal role in upholding Brandeis' founding principle of equal access to higher education, regardless of a student's financial circumstance. Scholarships ensure that the best and brightest students are able to pursue an education at this unique institution.

Brandeis is committed to ensuring that it meets the financial needs of its students. Endowed scholarship funds, which provide a consistent, dependable funding source, are required to accomplish this.

To support the BNC Scholarship campaign, contact Ronda Kottle, ronda@kottlehome.com
For a Scholarship donation form, Click HERE

Cassidy Swartz, Brandeis Scholarship Student



Cassidy Swartz, our Brandeis Scholarship student from the Valley, spoke to Board Members at our June General Board meeting about her degree program, life as a coed on campus, and being a 2016 commencement speaker.

Cassidy graduated from Brandeis Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science in Health: Science, Society & Policy, a major unique to Brandeis.

Post Brandeis she will work as a medical assistant at an ENT (ear, nose and throat) surgical private practice, which is affiliated with Newton-Wellesley Hospital, for 1-2 years. She plans to go to graduate school and follow her dream to become a nurse practitioner.

After the meeting, Cassidy, her mother and her brother joined us for lunch and a photo.

Photo: Michelle Fischler, Sara Leopold, Cassidy Swartz, her mother April Swartz, Stephanie Klopper, Judy Levine, Iris Wigal, and Carol Abrams



Friday, October 21, 2016 ◆ 11 am - 2:30 pm

FALL LUNCHEON

"Autumn in Paradise"

Friday, October 28

NEW MEMBER COFFEE

Saturday Evening,
November 12, 2016 ◆ 7 - 9:30 pm
CHRISTOPHER CALDWELL, MENTALIST

Cabaret style dessert and entertainment
McDowell Center
at McDowell Mountain Ranch

Saturday Evening,
December 10, 2016 ★ 5:00 - 9:00pm
DINNER & THEATER
Theater Artists Studio - Phoenix

Friday, January 13, 2017 ♦ 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

UNIVERSITY ON WHEELS (UOW)

Embassy Suites Scottsdale (formerly Chaparral Suites)

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

OPEN MEETING

Sunday, March 12, 2017

BOOK AND AUTHOR

BOOKMARK DONOR COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Monday, March 13, 2017

27TH ANNUAL BOOK AND AUTHOR EVENT
at the Marriott Desert Ridge

Mission Statement

Brandeis National Committee is dedicated to providing philanthropic support to Brandeis University, a distinguished liberal arts and research university founded by the American Jewish community. Its membership is connected to the University through fundraising and through activities that reflect the values on which the University was founded: academic excellence, social justice, nonsectarianism and service to the community.

We Value Your Privacy

All directories, phone numbers and email addresses shared with our members for the use of Brandeis business shall remain confidential and not be shared with other organizations



BNC PHOENIX CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS 2016-17

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Member At Large	Abby Tucker	skyranch52@gmail.com	(480) 575-3162

www.brandeisphoenix.com

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