
BNC BULLETIN

Brandeis National Committee, Baltimore Chapter

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Board Meeting and General Meeting November 21

We will have a board meeting on November 21 at noon at the Hadassah office on Old Court Road, followed by a general meeting at 1:00 pm. Lt. Colonel Sheldon A. Goldberg, USAF (Ret), Ph.D., is a thirty-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He



spent half his career in Europe. Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1985, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency, retiring after 16 years in 2002. He is currently a docent/historian at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington DC where he lectures on the

participation of American Jews in the US military since pre-Colonial times. His topic will be *Jews in the Defense of the United States Since 1654*.

President's Column

During the last two weeks of June, while Europe was experiencing record heat waves across the continent, my husband and I participated in a Jewish Heritage Tour of Eastern Europe. Over 17 days we visited Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Bratislava, Krakow and Warsaw, learning about the history of the Jews in these cities. It was an educational, although sobering, experience and it had all of the trip participants thinking about what led up to the Nazi control in this region compared to what is going on in the US today. We were all wondering what we could do to prevent another Holocaust.

So it was very meaningful when I returned home and learned about the Brandeis National Committee (BNC) fundraising campaign for this year. The original purpose of BNC was to raise funds to put the first books on the shelves of the fledgling university. This year the BNC National office has announced

that we are returning to our roots! Once again this year BNC fundraising will support the Brandeis library through a new campaign entitled: *Honoring our History: Transforming Unique Collections Highlighting Social Justice*. Here is the description of this campaign: "In light of increasing anti-Semitism, restrictions on immigration, and institutionalized sexism, the unique collections at the Brandeis libraries that speak to such topics are more important than ever. Providing electronic access to these materials will help preserve the originals while inviting new forms of digital scholarship and ensuring global and continuous access to our valuable, one-of-a-kind research collections. In a defining era of modernizing library-based learning, this campaign will not only transform the unique Brandeis collections but also contribute to the evolution of the Brandeis libraries into libraries of the future." At our August Board Meeting, the board voted to support this new campaign, so all the funds we raise through June 30, 2020, will go towards this important endeavor.

Even though the days are now getting shorter, the weather is turning colder, and many people are escaping to warmer climates, we have many BNC-Baltimore programs to keep you warm throughout the winter. Because of the vacations and weather, it is especially important during the winter months that you let your class facilitator know if you cannot attend a class. Facilitators and hosts put a great deal of effort into preparing for a class and your courtesy in providing a prompt RSVP is appreciated. I hope to see many of you as we close out 2019 and enter 2020.

January Book Discussion

Our annual book discussion will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 1:00 at the Hadassah Office on Old Court Road, following a board meeting at noon. Both the board meeting and book discussion are open to all so please join us and bring your friends. The book to be discussed this year is *Swing Time*, written in 2016 by Zadie Smith. The book was a New York Times bestseller, a finalist for the National Book Critic's Circle Award, and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. The author's talk on campus with Brandeis students will be recorded, and we will watch and listen as she discusses her book with them.

Swing Time is the story of two brown skinned girls who both dream of being dancers, but whose lives take very different paths. Written in first person by the unnamed narrator, we follow the girls from their childhood in London to the narrator's life in West Africa, and back again to their childhood homes. According to NPR Reviewer Annalisa Quinn, "Swing Time breaks the idea that we can ever come to a concrete identity, or reach the safe plains of self-knowledge. Identity is rather an exchange between people, a shifting topography, where the ground can collapse at any moment. The women of *Swing Time* are case studies in the different ways people hunt for an identity. With *Swing Time*, Zadie Smith identifies the impossible contradiction all adults are asked to maintain — be true to yourself, and still contain multitudes; be proud of your heritage, but don't be defined by it. She frays the cords that keep us tied to our ideas of who we are, to our careful self-mythologies. Some writers name, organize, and contain; Smith lets contradictions bloom, in all their frightening, uneasy splendor."

BNC Activity Calendar Meeting Schedule

Board meetings: 1:00 pm - Hadassah Office, 3723 Old Court Road, #205, - December 19, February 20, March 19

Board meetings with program: Noon - Hadassah Office - November 21, January 16, April 23

Closing luncheon: May 14, 2020 - Location and time TBA

Please note: All phone numbers are in Area Code 410 unless stated otherwise. Check *Live & Learn* sessions' dates and times on BNC's website, blogs.brandeis.edu/bncbaltimore. Updates will also be shown in subsequent *Bulletins*. For information listed TBA, check the website or call the course facilitator. Courses that have been canceled due to low registration: **Discussing Jewish Diversity** and **Books You Will Enjoy**. **Facilitators:** Please contact your participants a week ahead of your meeting.

All proceeds raised by the Baltimore Chapter of Brandeis National Committee support the Honoring Our History: Transforming Unique Collections Highlighting Social Justice campaign.

November 15-30

November 18, 1:30 pm, Artist Studio Visits, Beth Schwartz, 74 River Oaks Circle

21208 - Norma Axel 308-0827 • Ellen Schwartz 486-6753

November 21, Noon, Board meeting with speaker at 1:00 pm, See article on page 1

November 22, 1:30 pm, Rummikub!, Home of Annette Polonsky, 11 Slade Avenue, #112 21208 -

Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Annette Polonsky 484-6682

December

December 4, 1:30 pm, Movies We Love, Home of Merle Ann Siegelman, 6205 Sareva Drive

21209 - *All About Eve* - Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Merle Ann Siegelman 664-8855

December 5, 1:00 pm, Non-Fiction Discussion Group, Home of Deane Sevel, 3305 Janellen Drive 21208 - *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History*, by Keith O'Brien - Deane Sevel 484-0643

December 6, 11:00 am, Sue at the Piano, Home of Sue Needle, 1321 Harden Lane 21208

Hara Eckstein 453-6608

December 10, 11:15 am, Scrabble and Babble, Home of Carol Oppenheim, 326 Belltown Road,

Owings Mills 21117 - Ruth Casper 443-394-1449 • Carol Oppenheim 363-2482

December 11, 1:30 pm, Let's Knit and Stitch, Home of Susan Berman, 101 Old House Court,

21208 - Norma Axel 308-0827 • Ellen Schwartz 486-6753

December 16, 10:00 am, Beading Jewelry: String Us Along, Home of Sheila Maleson, 18 Tudor Court, Lutherville 21093 - Sheila Maleson 252-6598

December 19, 1:00 pm, Board meeting, Hadassah Meeting Room

December 27, 1:30 pm, Rummikub!, Home of Brenda Cohen, 4750 Coyle Road #403, Owings Mills 21117 - Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Annette Polonsky 484-6682

January

January 7, 11:15 am, Scrabble and Babble, Home of Carol Oppenheim, 326 Belltown Road, Owings Mills 21117 - Ruth Casper 443-394-1449 • Carol Oppenheim 363-2482

January 15, 1:30 pm, Let's Knit and Stitch, Home of Brenda Cohen, 4750 Coyle Road #403, Owings Mills 21117 - Norma Axel 308-0827 • Ellen Schwartz 486-6753

January 16, Noon, Board meeting and book discussion, Hadassah Meeting Room, See article on page 2

January 24, 1:30 pm, Rummikub!, Home of Annette Polonsky, 11 Slade Avenue, #112 21208 - Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Annette Polonsky 484-6682

February

February 4, 11:15 am, Scrabble and Babble, Home of Carol Oppenheim, 326 Belltown Road, Owings Mills 21117 - Ruth Casper 443-394-1449 • Carol Oppenheim 363-2482

February 6, 1:30 pm, Amazing Jewish Writers, Home of Devorah Brooks, 509 Old Crossing Drive 21208 - Devorah Brooks 484-4332

February 20, 1:30 pm, Board meeting, Hadassah Meeting Room

February 28, 1:30 pm, Learning from the Masters, Home of Suzanne Strutt, 12 Valleywood Court, Timonium 21093 - Suzanne Strutt 561-5516

March 1-6

March 3, 11:15 am, Scrabble and Babble, Home of Carol Oppenheim, 326 Belltown Road, Owings Mills 21117 - Ruth Casper 443-394-1449 • Carol Oppenheim 363-2482

March 4, 1:30 pm, Movies We Love, Home of Merle Ann Siegelman, 6205 Sareva Drive 21209 - *The Mirror Has Two Faces* - Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Merle Ann Siegelman 664-8855

March 5, 1:30 pm, Amazing Jewish Writers, Home of Devorah Brooks, 509 Old Crossing Drive 21208 - Devorah Brooks 484-4332

March 6, 11:00 am, Trips, Trips, Trips! Maryland State House, 100 State Circle, Annapolis, 21401 - Suzanne Strutt 561-5516 • Leslie Sandler 433-6366

Inclement Weather Policy

In case of severe weather, BNC programs - whether held in the County or the City - are canceled if **Baltimore County** schools are closed for even part of the day.

Welcome to New Members

We extend a warm welcome to new members Joyce Plotkin, Marilyn Werthamer, Harriet Weiner, Anita Goldsmith and Carol Winer.

Special Events

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

National Museum of Jewish American History in Philadelphia on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, Leaving Greenspring Shopping Center 8:00 am, Returning 5:30 pm

Cost \$70 for members and guests, plus lunch

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, is the first retrospective of her extraordinary life and career. The exhibit marries immersive 3-dimensional environments with historic artifacts to bring key moments in RBG's personal and professional story to life.

Questions? Contact Rena Shenk at rjhappygrands@gmail.com

RSVP by sending a check payable to BNC-Baltimore to Beverly Silberman, 2 High Stepper Court, #106, Pikesville, MD 21208

Tour of the Evergreen Museum and Library

Thursday, March 31, 2020 Limit 40 Cost: \$30 includes lunch

4545 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, 21210

Join us for a docent-led tour of Evergreen Museum and Library housed in a former Gilded Age mansion. Surrounded by Italian-style gardens, Evergreen Museum and Library is at once an intimate collection of fine and decorative arts, rare books, and manuscripts assembled by two generations of the philanthropic Garrett family, and a vibrant, inspirational venue for contemporary artists. In the mid-19th century, when railroads were king, Baltimore's Garrett family ruled the rails. Evergreen, their home from 1878 until 1942, is a superb example of Gilded Age architecture set on 26 landscaped acres in Baltimore and is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Facilitators: Ilene Merenbloom, 486-6822 • Leslie Sandler, 443-6366

Tour of the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum

Monday, May 11, 2020, 10:30 am Limit 18 Cost: \$7 at the door - cash or check



701 Wilson Point Road, Middle River 21220

Join us on the *Wind Wagons to Rockets* (including *Rosie the Riveter*) tour of museum, gallery and flight line. Followed by optional lunch (additional cost) at **By the Docks**, 3321 Eastern Blvd., 21220. Please register by April 15, 2020. Send \$10 registration fee to Irene Palter, 12320 Rosslare Ridge Road, #202, Timonium, MD 21093.

Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Hara Eckstein 453-6608

BNC Program Registration

The Live and Learn committee has prepared excellent programs as set forth in the booklet for the 2019-2020 Brandeis year. Seventy-three (73) members have registered for courses and special events listed in the Live and Learn booklet. Movies, make-up, lunch, tours, trips, and special events are all very popular and a few of these programs have filled. But please keep in mind that registration never actually closes, and some courses and special events do not begin until winter or next spring. So if you have not yet registered or wish to add courses to your registration, you are welcome to do so. There are a few courses that would welcome more membership participation. They are: Amazing Jewish Writers, The Art of Stamps, Dining 'Round the World, Discussing Jewish Diversity, and Let's Walk.

If you have not yet registered for courses, fill out and send the registration form with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Irene Palter, 12320 Rosslare Ridge Road, Unit 202, Timonium, Md. 21093. If you wish to add to your registration, call or email Irene Palter, Registrar.

Phone: 410-252-0246 or email: robert.palter@verizon.net

Stamps for the 6 Million

Our Mitzvah campaign to assist the Mt. Hebron High schoolers in Ellicott City who are aiming to collect 6,000,000 postage stamps to represent the magnitude of innocent Jewish lives lost in the Holocaust is going amazingly well! Via the U.S. mail, at Board meetings, at Live & Learn courses, and recently at our Opening Meeting & Luncheon, postage stamps torn off ordinary envelopes are being contributed by BNC Members. We now have collected over 1,000 stamps to swell the numbers of those collected by the School.

BNC donors have requested that their names not be published, but I'd like to tell you that one member gave me 400 stamps at the August Board meeting. I am particularly happy to be contributing duplicates from my life-long stamp collection for this worthy project and my husband has contributed his stash of foreign envelopes acquired during his tenure as Chair of

the Radiology Journal. If you'd like to join this Mitzvah project please send your stamps to Merle Ann Siegelman, 6205 Sareva Dr., Baltimore 21209. Thank you.

Roster Updates

Additions

Anita Goldsmith, 33 Stonehenge Circle,
#1, 21208, 561-7277
Gary Helper, 5230 Tuckerman Lane, #1304,
North Bethesda 20852, 602-5234
Carol Winer 3 Rush Vine Court, Owings
Mills 21117, 363-8464

Corrections

Ellie Allen 486-8257
Brenda Lerner 358-2810
Cheryl Weinstein - home 443-898-6117
Cell 706-566-4980

Good and Welfare

Condolences to

Pat Hartley on the passing of her mother
Bunny Pucci on the passing of her brother,
Sheldon Friedlander

Speedy recovery to

Merle Ann Siegelman who is home recovering
from surgery

Mazel tov to

Rosalind Perlman on the birth of her 10th
Great Grandchild, Yael Naama
Kuperman
Annette Polonsky on the marriage of her
grandson

Book Fund Donations

In Memory of

Allen Cohen by Sandy and Hal Kuperberg
Anita Potemken by Eva and Ernie Silversmith
Winnie Krimmel by Eva and Ernie Silversmith and Marcia Snyder
Pat Hartley's mother by Marcia Snyder

Editor's Note:

The next issue of the Brandeis Bulletin will be March 1, 2020. Please submit all articles and information by February 1. Of course, earlier is always appreciated.

**Brandeis National
Committee
Baltimore Chapter
2800 Stone Cliff Drive #108
Baltimore, MD 21209**

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Brandeis National Committee

Mission Statement

The Brandeis National Committee is an organization committed 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, non-sectarianism, and service to the community.

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