A Word from the President

This is a very different Bulletin for a very different time in our lives. The novel corona virus (COVID-19) has changed how we live and until a vaccine is developed and deployed we must change how our Baltimore Chapter of BNC operates.

We cannot hold any in-person activities for the next several months at least. So there can be no Opening Luncheon where we typically give out updated chapter rosters; no Live & Learn classes in members’ homes; no trips to unique artists, museums, factories, or restaurants; and no group gatherings to hear speakers or watch movies. Therefore we cannot produce our usual catalogue of courses.

However, in this Bulletin you will instead find:

- An addendum page to cut out and add to your 2019-2020 Roster
- A listing of VIRTUAL classes being offered using Zoom from September to November this year

These Fall 2020 classes will be available for FREE to all BNC life members and those annual members whose $60 dues have been paid to the National office by the course’s start date. Details for paying dues can be found on page two. Once your National dues are paid you will also be able to take other Zoom classes that the University, alumni, National BNC office, and the other BNC chapters are making available to all of BNC.

To minimize costs while we have no money coming into our Chapter we will primarily communicate through email this Fall. You also need an email account to receive the Zoom links to our free fall classes and the classes offered nationally. Please check your email at least weekly for messages from BNC National and BNC Baltimore. All the details for our Chapter’s organized events will also be posted on our Chapter website (http://blogs.brandeis.edu/bncbaltimore) if you prefer to look there.

You do not need a smartphone, tablet, or computer with a camera, or to participate in Zoom classes. All class links will be provided with telephone numbers as well so that you can dial in from any type of phone and just listen to the course.

We know that virtual classes are a poor substitute for our typical events but we hope we have developed some fun ways to spend time with friends and do something different with part of your day. We will continue to monitor the health situation and plan additional programming for later in the year as appropriate.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns or need anything, please contact me at 410/486-4972 or burkom@verizon.net. —Diane Burkom
How To Enjoy the Fall Classes

Membership
National sent out invoices for membership. We encourage you to renew your membership so that you can enjoy the online classes. Currently, BNC National sends out emails containing notices of University-wide virtual events open to all BNC members. There you can take part in any events offered by any Chapter or the National office.

Remember that you can pay your annual dues to BNC National by mailing them a check, calling them (781-736-4171) with a credit card number, or going online: go to https://www.brandeis.edu.bnc/ and click the JOIN/RENEW button, then enter your credit card and personal information. Be sure to select Baltimore as your chapter!

Live and Learn Programs
The Live & Learn Committee has begun planning events for the fall. The listing of the initial free classes can be found starting on page 4. Please email suggestions to any of the members as soon as possible, describing what courses—suggestions for new ones or old favorites—you would like the Committee to include for classes in 2021.

Using Zoom
Zoom is an application by which one person hosts and everyone else can join in. Zoom meetings can have up to 300 people at one time.

A “link” is an email address that usually contains a long series of numbers and letters. It will also contain a Meeting ID and a numerical password. For now, an email will be sent weekly with all the Zoom links for the coming week so any paid member can participate.

The BNC facilitator will host the meeting. The member needs only to “click” on the link in the email, follow the prompts on the screens, and she will immediately become part of the group. (In some cases, the notice that the host will let you in shortly will appear; simply wait, and you will be admitted.) The only requirement is that you have the Zoom app installed/downloaded on a tablet, smart phone, or computer with a camera.

Another way to attend is to phone into a session, referred to as “audio” joining; a phone number will be provided in the same email with the link.

If you want more help, open a browser (i.e. Google, Firefox, Microsoft, Safari, etc.) and go to YouTube.com. In your browser type in the words Joining a Zoom Meeting for The First Time and follow the instructions on the video.
Ellie Allen  
New phone number: 486-8257  
Welcome New Members:  
Nathan Baum & Diane Eidelman  
8729 Endless Ocean Way, Columbia, MD 21045  
631/902-8195  
govdcmom@gmail.com  
Susan Berman  
Cell phone number: 443/829-4235  
Ella Cohen  
New address: 1 Pomona East #407  
Baltimore, MD 21208  
Carole Ellin  
New address: 800 A Southerly Rd, #831,  
Towson, MD 21286  
Welcome New Member:  
Anita Goldsmith  
33 Stonehenge Circle, #1, 21208  
561-7277  
majanita@aol.com  
Jan and Gary Helper  
New address: 4201 Butterworth Place NW,  
Apt. 437, Washington DC 20016  
New phone number: 202/817-3445  
Brenda Lerner  
Corrected phone number: 358-2810  
Sue Needle  
Complete zip code: 21208  
Ellen Pazornik  
Cell phone number: 608-3974  
Rosalind Pearlman  
Cell phone number: 608-5235  
Rona Pepper  
Cell phone number: 443/386-4558  
Joyce Plotkin  
Zip code: 21208  
Patricia Schvimmer  
New address: 304 Fellowship Circle  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
Cheryl Weinstein  
New phone number: 706/566-4980  
Welcome New Member:  
Carol Winer  
3 Rush Vine Court, Owings Mills, MD 21117  
383-8464  
alecgma@comcast.net  

Not checking for BNC notices and missing out  
on BNC information and offerings?  
Please check your email at least once a week  
and/or go to BNC’s website:  
http://blogs.brandeis.edu/bncbaltimore
Zoom Courses • Fall 2020

The following courses will be offered free of charge to all paid BNC Members during the Fall of 2020. There is no need to register for these courses in advance and you can attend one or several sessions of each course. Watch your email every Thursday for a message that will list all class sessions coming up during the following week, along with the Zoom links and telephone numbers, unique for each session. Please join us for some interesting courses!

NOTE: The weekly email message will be sent only to paid members— and life members—for whom we have email addresses.

The National office can be slow to process membership payments, so if you pay your dues in the next several weeks, please also email Diane [burkom@verizon.net] to let her know so that your name and email can be added to the invitation list.

BNC Fall Speaker Series 6 Thursdays, 1 PM

September 3, 17  October 1, 22  November 5, 19
Come hear a variety of experts, some from within our own BNC family, speak on subjects of interest with time for questions after each talk. All are on Zoom.

September 3  •  George Strutt, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist: “The Psychological Effects of Covid-19 and What We Can Do About Them”  •  This presentation will discuss the short- and long-term psychological effects of the pandemic. People are already experiencing the short-term effects; we know from previous disasters that there will be significant long-term effects as well. Come and learn how to prepare to cope!

September 17  •  Heather Murphy, Director of Move Management Services for the Abilities Network “Get Organized!” Learn how to reduce anxiety about organizing and de-cluttering your space. You will receive information you can use starting today and feel motivated and confident that you can Get Organized!

October 1  •  Jeannine Robinson-Hurley, MPS, Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division  •  “Scam Protection”  •  Hear how scammers are trying out a new wave of scams and putting new twists on old scams to con people out of their money or trick them into disclosing sensitive personal information. There’s the “Medicare Free DNA Test” scam, the “Census” scam and the “Romance” scam making their ways throughout Maryland. Find out how to protect yourself and your loved ones.

October 22  •  Stanley S. Siegelman, M.D.  •  “Learn about Viruses: Covid-19”  •  Covid-19 has changed our lives dramatically. But what is a virus and how does it act? Knowing the mechanism of actions of viruses, what are the possibilities for developing a vaccine?

November 5  •  Lori Beth Finkelstein, Ph.D., Philip Franklin Wagley Director & Curator of Evergreen Museum & Library  •  “Evergreen Garden Tour”  •  Take a video tour of the gardens and learn about Evergreen and its landscape along with the history of the house.

November 19  •  Cindy Bernstein  •  “Downsizing for You”  •  A member of the National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals and founder of Aim4Order, Cindy will enlighten you with friendly advice on how to successfully downsize and/or organize spaces and materials in your home. Her tips will enable you to stop delaying decision-making and get you to work area by area to clear away your clutter.

Facilitators: Diane Burkorm 410-486-4972, Leslie Sandler 410-433-6366

The Fab Four:
Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, & Bartok
2 Tuesdays September 8, 15   1:30 PM
A survey course, we will hear a brief biography of each composer, then listen to a short important or little known work. Each session will last for an hour, with extensions if requested.
Facilitator: Suzanne Strutt, 410 236 6177,
“The Art of Scarves—How to Tie One On”
Monday, October 5   1:30 PM
You may already have several ways to tie your scarves. Let “scarf-maven” Merle Ann Siegelman, demonstrate some new twists for you try! Bring some scarves you have questions about. All are welcome to an interactive session of fashion and fun. It will enhance your appearance on Zoom!
Facilitator: Merle Ann Siegelman, 664-8855

Art with a Heart: Three American Romantics
2 Thursdays October 8, 15   1:30 PM
From America’s rich fund of art that developed following the European Romantic tradition, we will examine three of its outstanding painters: Ryder, Homer, and Hopper. A presentation of biographical and historical material will precede a hands-on studio project, employing their predominant design principles. Materials: pencil and paper, with charcoal, watercolor, ink, and/or pastels that participants may wish to use. Each session will last for an hour-and-a-half to two hours, depending on participants’ interest.
Facilitator: Suzanne Strutt, 236 6177

Let’s Play Mah Jongg
2 Wednesdays October 21, 28   1 PM
Learn to play mah jongg online. You will need a computer and a phone to both access the website and join a conference call at the same time. This way you will learn and talk to your friends during the game.
Facilitator: Leslie Sandler, 433-6366

Let’s Have Breakfast Together
Tuesday October 13   10:30 AM
Make my cranberry apple oatmeal bake. I have it for breakfast with yogurt every morning. Make in advance and freeze your squares or muffins and you have breakfast for the whole week—just microwave one at a time. Let’s get the coffee brewing and join me in making these delicious breakfast treats. The facilitator will provide an ingredient list prior to the class for those who have signed up.
Facilitator: Susan Berman, 653-3886

Curious Jewish, Part II: Feminist Issues With a Jewish Eye
4 First Wednesdays   1:30 PM
November 4, December 2, January 6,
Whether “frum, reform, or anywhere in-between,” this discussion group centering on women’s issues may be up your alley. What does Judaism say about today’s earth-shaking issues important to you? Sex, Race, Grandparenting, Drugs & Alcohol, Mental illness, Communal Leadership and a whole lot more are on the menu.
Facilitator: Devorah Brooks, 484-4332

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 fund raising and through activities that reflect the values on which the University was founded: academic excellence, social justice, non-sectarianism, and service to the community.

All funds raised support the Honoring Our History Campaign.
New Student Forum Book Discussion

Tell Me How It Ends: 
An Essay in Forty Questions
by Valeria Luiselli
8 PM August 25, 2020

You are invited to read along with incoming first-year students and to be a part of an important and exciting educational program, the twenty-ninth Helen and Philip Brecher New Student Forum!

Registration is required, available to all BNC members who have paid their annual dues. You will receive an email with registration directions. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions and a password to join the event via Zoom.