
BNC BULLETIN

Brandeis National Committee, Baltimore Chapter

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General Meeting Open to All

Please join us via Zoom on Thursday, February 18, at 1:30 pm when Suzanne Strutt will review the Brandeis Freshman Seminar book for this year, *Tell Me How It Ends, An Essay in Forty Questions* by Valeria Luiselli. From the cover: "In the warrens of New York City's federal immigration court, an adolescent boy from Honduras confronts a thoroughly confused immigration bureaucracy with the help of his translator, Ms. Luiselli. With our author as guide, we navigate the corridors of a system that tries and fails to reconcile America's long-standing welcome . . . with its current fear and mistrust of immigrants.

"This is a most necessary book, and a unique one, from a writer whose clear-eyed intelligence and marvelous literary imagination make . . . her narratives a compelling read."

"An indictment of our treatment of undocumented children, a reckoning with our culpability for the dangers they are fleeing, and a damning confrontation between the ideals of the American dream and the reality of American racism and fear, this is required reading for [us all who are] concerned with human rights, human dignity, and our most fundamental responsibilities to each other." A video recording of the author speaking to the students will accompany the review, with discussion by participants afterward. Invite your friends. The Zoom link will be sent to all a few days before the meeting.

Final Fall Class!

Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 1:30 pm for the final session of one of our fall class offerings: Curious Jewish, Part II: Feminist Issues with a Jewish Eye
Devorah Brooks will lead us as we continue discussions started last year to understand what Judaism says about today's issues. Sex, Race, Grandparenting, Drugs and Alcohol, Mental Illness, Communal Leadership, the Supreme Court and Justice - all or

anything will be on the menu. Whether "from, reform or anywhere in between" this discussion group will center on women's issues to be chosen by the participants. So come with your questions. Zoom link will be emailed to all Life members and annual members whose dues to National BNC have been paid.

President's Column

When I last wrote this column for the August Bulletin I mentioned how different things had been during the spring and summer of 2020 and was hopeful that we could return to some of our usual activities in 2021. While that may still happen, it will not be for some time yet. Therefore, all of our BNC activities will continue to be virtual for the next several months. You will find a listing of our Winter and Spring Live & Learn classes in this Bulletin. As with most every other organization, we now will need to charge fees to attend the upcoming classes. So in addition to being a paid up member of BNC through the National office (or a Life member), you will now need to send a check to our Registrar with a check payable to BNC, to continue to receive the Zoom links for these classes.

Here is a brief overview of the many virtual offerings from Brandeis over the past months:

* I heard a talk from Brandeis University President, Ron Leibowitz, in which he shared the extraordinary efforts the university has taken to allow learning to continue this fall. While some classes are being taught virtually, others are taking place in person on campus. Students, faculty and staff working on campus are being tested for Covid every few days. Research projects are continuing, and the school is looking out for the students' social needs as well.

* The BNC National office has been offering a wide array of virtual programs. Look for their email every Wednesday!

* The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations in Maryland had a wonderful opening meeting featuring a conversation with Retired Senator Barbara Mikulski. If you missed attending you can listen to the conversation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYMhyeeQOew>

* Our chapter offered many free virtual classes in the fall. We heard from some excellent speakers and had fun cooking, tying scarves and learning together. One speaker updated us on the most recent scams occurring by phone and email. If you ever think you have been approached by a questionable opportunity, please call the Maryland Attorney General's Office at 888-743-0023. Other important numbers to keep on hand:

* 410-528-1840 is a Mediation Unit that can help with business disputes

* 877-261-8807 is the Health Education and Advocacy Unit that can mediate billing disputes with health care providers and coverage or billing disputes with your health insurance company

* 410-974-5521 reaches the Maryland Secretary of State's Office where you can check if a charity is registered before donating to them

* 800-269-0271 is the Social Security Administration's Office of the Inspector General to report Social Security scams

* 800-275-8777 is the U.S. Postal Service Inspector's Office for reporting suspected mail fraud

I hope you all can enjoy the winter holidays in a safe way and I look forward to seeing you on Zoom in January.

Live & Learn Classes January – May 2021

Below is a listing of the Live & Learn classes being offered virtually in the winter and spring of 2021, along with instructions on how to register for these classes. Classes are available, for a fee, to all life members and annual members whose dues have been paid to National BNC for this year. There is still time to pay your dues!

Class fees: If you wish to receive the weekly email containing the Zoom link for all of the following classes (and any additional ones that we can arrange in the next few months), pay \$36. If you do this then you do NOT need to register for any particular class and can join any class whenever you wish. Take as many classes as you would like!

If, however, you just wish to join us on a few specific dates, then you can pay \$5 per date.

Registration: To register for any or all classes, please send a check payable to Brandeis National Committee to our Registrar Irene Palter at 12320 Rosslare Ridge Road, #202, Timonium, MD 21093. If you are paying for just a few specific dates, please include a note specifying those dates along with your check.

All proceeds support the Honoring Our History Campaign.

Tuesday, January 5, 1:30 pm – An Introduction to Using Zoom

Learn some of the basic features of Zoom, beyond joining a meeting. How can I adjust the sound? What is the Chat feature? Why can't I see everyone else? Why do things look so small? We will try and answer these questions and more. Facilitator: Diane Burkom, 410-486-4972

Wednesday, January 6, 10:30 am – Evergreen Exteriors – An Ever-Expanding Evergreen

The Johns Hopkins University's Evergreen Museum and Library is closed to the public due to Covid. However, their director, Lori Finkelstein, has created three video tours of the Evergreen Exteriors to allow the public to experience the museum's exterior virtually. We watched the first of these videos about the gardens at Evergreen in the fall. The architecture at Evergreen changed over time to accommodate the art and floral collections, the family, the need for entertaining, and the life of the workers maintaining the house and grounds. Now we will watch the second video to learn about these architectural changes (see Jan 13 below for part 3). Facilitators: Diane Burkom, 410-486-4972, Leslie Sandler, 410-433-6366

Tuesday, January 12, 1:30 pm – How to Host a Zoom Meeting

When you serve as the host for a Zoom meeting you have special powers. You can mute everyone, share your screen, send people into breakout rooms, and make others wait to join

until you admit them. In this session you will learn how to manage these powerful tools and become a Zoom host. Facilitator: Diane Burkom, 410-486-4972

Wednesday, January 13, 10:30 am – Evergreen Exteriors – Evergreen in the 20th Century

Continuing with the architectural tour of Evergreen started last week (see Jan 6 above), we will watch the third video to learn about the architect Lawrence Hall Fowler and the additions made to the Evergreen building in the early half of the 20th century under his direction. Following the video, Lori Finkelstein, museum director, will join us for a live Q&A session. Facilitators: Diane Burkom, 410-486-4972, Leslie Sandler, 410-433-6366

Thursday, January 14, 1:30 pm – A Visit to Chile

Join Suzanne Strutt to sample views of a fascinating South American neighbor. The tour will feature the Central Valley wine growing country, a spectacular museum of Chile's history (and the story of its very unusual founder), and the Atacama Desert, home of llamas and flamingos, and the oldest, highest, and driest desert in the world. Facilitator: Suzanne Strutt, 410-236-6177

Tuesday, January 19, 1:30 pm – Learn Some Advanced Zoom Techniques

Ready to add a virtual background? Want to save that fascinating chat? Need to leave a breakout room early? With some simple steps you can customize what you see during a Zoom meeting. Learn some fun tricks to enjoying Zoom. Facilitator: Diane Burkom, 410-486-4972

Tuesday, January 26, 1:30 pm – Kovid Knitters Etc.

Join us on Zoom to knit, crochet, or do any needlework of your choice, while being able to see and chat with one another. All skill levels are welcome. Facilitators: Merle Ann Siegelman, 410-664-8855, Norma Axel, 410-308-0827

Tuesday, February 2, 10:30 am – Meet the Author – Judy Petsonk

As a writer of historical fiction, Judy Petsonk has two aims: one is to give voice to the women who shaped Judaism but never got to tell the story in their own words. She began that project with her novel *Queen of the Jews*, about Queen Salome Alexandra (Shalom-Zion). The other is to explore "how Judaism and Jews became Jewish." In the first century BCE, the Hasmonean High-Priest-Kings (descendants of the Maccabees) who ruled Judea became more and more corrupt. The Pharisees, forerunners of the rabbis, won the respect of the people, and Judaism began its transformation from a centralized religion of animal sacrifice led by priests to the decentralized religion of study and debate we know today: the People of the Book. The turbulence erupted in a 6-year civil war which cost 50,000 lives. In her new novel *JUSTICE: MACCABEES AND PHARISEES*, she tells this story from the point of view of the ex-wife of the leading Pharisee, Shimon ben Shetakh. Facilitator: Diane Burkom, 410-486-4972

Thursday, February 4, 1:30 pm – Jewish Museum Tour of Jews in Space

Jewish people have been wondering about the stars and planets for centuries, and the Jewish Museum of Maryland's newest exhibit, *Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit*, explores the discoveries, stories and adventures of those people. We will take a digital tour with a museum staff member who will give us an inside look of the exhibit, sharing how Jewish people

thought about space in the past, the creativity of Jewish science fiction writers, and the bravery of Jewish astronauts. There will be time for Q&A at the end. Facilitator: Diane Burkom, 410-486-4972

Thursday, February 11, 1:30 pm – Book Review: The Secret Chord

A rich and utterly absorbing novel about the life of King David, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of People of the Book, Geraldine Brooks. Tracing the rise of this Biblical hero through the voice of his seer, a young Hebrew boy subject to holy visions, the fabled king comes to life as he raises the guerilla army that will defeat King Saul, establishes his kingdom with its capital, Jerusalem, and eventually falls prey to his own flaws and the intrigues that result. Facilitator: Suzanne Strutt, 410-236-6177

Tuesday, February 23, 1:30 pm – Kovid Knitters Etc.

Details: See Jan.26. Facilitators: Merle Ann Siegelman, 410-664-8855, Norma Axel, 410-308-0827

Monday, March 1, 1:00 pm – Our Prized Possessions - Session 1

Join us to talk about an object that you love that is in your home! Could be a travel souvenir, a gift from you husband, artwork, or a gift from your children or grandchildren. Find anything that you love and want to share with us. Facilitators: Leslie Sandler, 410-433-6366, Merle Ann Siegelman, 410-664-8855

Monday, March 8, 1:00 pm – Our Prized Possessions - Session 2

Details: See March 1. Facilitators: Leslie Sandler, 410-433-6366, Merle Ann Siegelman, 410-664-8855

Tuesday, March 9, 1:30 pm – Cooking with Brandeis – Passover Desserts presented by Diane Burkom

Come for cooking demonstrations and also share your own versions of your favorite dishes or old standbys. Participants should please have some of your own Passover desserts to talk about and share with the group. You can watch or make the recipe with us; a list of ingredients for each session will be sent with the Zoom link. Facilitator: Susan Berman, 410-653-3886

Tuesday, March 16, 1:30 pm – Cooking with Brandeis – Cabbage Salad presented by Honey Selinger. Come for cooking demonstrations and also share your own versions of your favorite dishes or old standbys. Participants should please collect some salad recipes to share with the group. You can watch or make the recipe with us; a list of ingredients for each session will be sent with the Zoom link. Facilitator: Susan Berman, 410-653-3886

Tuesday, March 23, 1:30 pm – Cooking with Brandeis – Carrot Soufflé presented by Michele Weisbrot. Come for cooking demonstrations and also share your own versions of your favorite dishes or old standbys. Please share other vegetable and side dishes with the group. You can watch or make the recipe with us; a list of ingredients for each session will be sent with the Zoom link. Facilitator: Susan Berman, 410-653-3886

Thursday, March 25, 10:30 am – Travel to Synagogues Along the Danube

Photographer and author (and Brandeis alum) Fruma Markowitz will take us on a journey along the Danube River to view the synagogues she visited during a 2016 visit to Eastern Europe. Facilitator: Diane Burkom, 410-486-4972

Tuesday, March 30, 1:30 pm – Cooking with Brandeis – Matzoh Candy presented by Phyl Cherry. Come for cooking demonstrations and also share your own versions of your favorite dishes or old standbys. Please focus on Passover and specialty items to share with the group. You can watch or make the recipe with us; a list of ingredients for each session will be sent with the Zoom link. Facilitator: Susan Berman, 410-653-3886

Tuesday, April 6, 1:30 pm – Cooking with Brandeis – Noodle Kugel, one sweet and one savory presented by Susan Berman. Come or cooking demonstrations and also share your own versions of your favorite dishes or old standbys. Please have your versions of any noodle dish to share with the group. You can watch or make the recipe with us; a list of ingredients for each session will be sent with the Zoom link. Facilitator: Susan Berman, 410-653-3886

Thursday, April 22, 1:30 pm – The World of Jacob Lawrence

Twentieth Century African American artist Jacob Lawrence, the best known black American artist of the 20th century (1917–2000), was one of the first artists to break through the color line of New York’s segregated art world in the 1950s. The Struggle series, thirty intimate panels he created during the modern civil rights era, depict pivotal moments in the American Revolution. . . and, as he wrote, also “depict the struggles of a people to create a nation and their attempt to build a democracy.” Join us for a presentation of his work and its significance today. Facilitator: Suzanne Strutt, 410-236-6177

Tuesday, April 27, 1:30 pm – Kovid Knitters Etc.

Details: See Jan.26. Facilitators: Merle Ann Siegelman, 410-664-8855, Norma Axel, 410-308-0827

Wednesday, May 5, 1:00 pm – Indoor, Terrace and Container Gardening

Our speaker will be Marcus J. Williams. He is a Home Educator and Master Gardener Coordinator from the University of Maryland Extension Center. Join us to hear his talk and get your questions answered. Facilitator: Leslie Sandler, 410-433-6366

Thursday, May 6, 1:30 pm – Tips and Tricks, Hacks That Help

Who knew that a plastic hanger with end clips could make it easy to hang a recipe up where you could read it? Well, someone did—along with a lot of other simple gimmicks using common household items to make life easier. (Better yet, she put it out there where we could find and use it!) Suzanne Strutt will demonstrate ten of these clever rigs and will supply the YouTube sources you can explore to find even more. Facilitator: Suzanne Strutt, 410-236-6177

Wednesday, May 12, 1:00 pm – Our Maryland Waterways

Join us to learn about the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the Inner Harbor and other Maryland Waterways. Our speaker will be Jen Aioso, Executive Director of Blue Waters. Q and A to follow her talk. Facilitator: Leslie Sandler, 410-433-6366

Tuesday, May 25, 1:30 pm – Kovid Knitters Etc.

Details: See Jan.26. Facilitators: Merle Ann Siegelman, 410-664-8855, Norma Axel, 410-308-0827

New Brandeis Project

We are creating a Brandeis cookbook of traditional Jewish recipes that are your favorites. The recipes will be categorized into the following topics:

*Breads, muffins and breakfast *Salads and soups *Vegetables and side dishes
*Main courses *Desserts *Specialties

Please send as many of your favorite recipes as you would like to see published in our cookbook. Send the recipes to Susan Berman at sberman21209@gmail.com

Good and Welfare

Condolences

To the family of longtime member Irma Frank

To Ellen Pazornik on the loss of her husband Sheldon Pazornik

To Eva Silversmith on the loss of her husband, and our member, Ernest (Ernie) Silversmith

To Vera Mitnick on the loss of her husband Martin Alan Mitnick

To Life Member Barbara Himmelrich on the loss of her husband Sam Himmelrich

Congratulations

To Ellen Schwartz on the marriage of her son

To Roz Pearlman on her granddaughter's new job

To Roz Pearlman on now having 12 great-grandchildren

To Diane Burkom's son and his family on moving into their new home

Speedy recovery

To Susan Berman's husband, Richard Berman, who is recuperating from surgery

Mitzvah Cards

In memory of

Martin Alan Mitnick, husband of Vera Mitnick, by Suzanne Strutt

Irma Frank by Irene Palter

Sheldon Pazornik, husband of Ellen Pazornik, by Irene Palter

Ernie Silversmith, husband of Eva Silversmith, by Annette Polonsky

**Brandeis National
Committee
Baltimore Chapter
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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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