Brandeis Community Book Discussion

*Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness,* by distinguished philosopher of science and skilled scuba diver Peter Godfrey Smith

Thursday, January 13, 2022 • 1 PM • ZOOM

Come hear a virtual book talk about this year’s new student reading assignment. The talk will include a video recording of the author interacting with students.

Fundraising Fun in February

On Sunday, February 20, at 3 PM, we will have a Pampered Chef party presented by Keri Schlein on Zoom. This is a chance to buy new and useful kitchen tools. A portion of each sale will be used to support the work of Brandeis.

A Word from the President

Here it is, the day before Thanksgiving 2021, and I write this thinking of the completely undeserved, unearned, unstinting good fortune that has been mine for 76 years (so far). Much of that good fortune accounts to the countless good memories of friends and acquaintances that bring me to reflect on the treasure of each presence in my life.

One group, friends met through my twenty BNC years, stands out distinctly. Your company has furnished me opportunities to expand my knowledge, increase understanding, and develop leadership skills. Every encounter refreshes my pleasure at your enthusiastic curiosity and intellectual acuity, along with lively eagerness to venture into new unknowns.

Now, facing the third year of this pandemic and a predicted post-holiday surge, I expect that many of us will feel safe only if we remain pretty isolated. We also know that isolation is particularly hard on the physical and mental health of those in our age group. This is a moment when getting together for some learning, entertainment, and socializing can contribute
important benefits to our well being. The offerings in the Live & Learn catalog—ranging in interest from literature, art, and games, to fashion, music, history, even genealogy—can do a lot to mitigate that isolation.

However, Registrar Irene Palter reports that only 26 of us sixty-five or so paid members have signed up for them. This is particularly distressing when we have a historically unique antidote to the isolation: the many Zoom courses available through the Internet.

Also, while I realize that very few of us have a closet twelve-year-old handy to rescue us when we run into a computer problem, the good news is that we can help each other understand this amazing resource and use it comfortably. I will be happy to come to your house—triply-vaccinated and N95-masked—to show you how and help you gain confidence in using it. It is really not difficult.

The big reason I make this plea goes beyond combating our isolation, however: we exist to support Brandeis University. I learned recently that BNC is the largest friends-of-a-library group in the world, with 21,000 members nationwide. While providing unique programming for its members, the organization has contributed more than $141 million to Brandeis University, funds that support student scholarships, science research and the expansion of the Brandeis Libraries, including the acquisition of books and research journals, restoration and preservation, and development of information technology. This is not a case of going on YouTube to see a free video; the meaning reaches far beyond just us.

So please look through the appealing course opportunities for the rest of the year that Irene has listed in this issue and see what might interest you this winter and spring. We would love to see you and Brandeis University will appreciate your support.

Brandeis needs us—and we need BNC!

—Suzanne Strutt • President, Baltimore Chapter

**BNC Activity Calendar, December 2021 – March 2022**

**Meeting Schedule**

All phone numbers are in Area Code 410 unless stated otherwise. Full course descriptions can be found in the Live & Learn booklet. If there are any updates to course information, you will be notified by the facilitator of the course(s) for which you are enrolled. Members and guests attending in-person events must be fully vaccinated and masked. Ongoing COVID-19 concerns may result in cancellation or change to ZOOM for any event listed.

**Board Meetings:** 1 PM except for January, which will start at noon • ZOOM only

- Thursdays January 13, February 17, March 17

**Thursday December 9, 1:30 PM – Amazing Jewish Writers •** Home of Devorah Brooks, 509 Old Crossing Drive, 21208 • Book selections focus on Israel. Please call if unable to attend session. Facilitator: Devorah Brooks 913-4425

**Friday December 10, 1:30 PM – Triumphs of Animation •** Home of Suzanne Strutt, 12 Valleywood Court, Timonium 21093 • Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Suzanne Strutt 561-5516
Tuesday December 14, 1:30 pm – Let’s Knit and Stitch • ZOOM only.
A chance to do needlework of your choice and share your knowledge (or gain new knowledge!)
Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Merle Ann Siegelman 664-8855

Friday December 17, 1:30 pm – Rummikub® • Home of Annette Polonsky, 11 Slade 112, 21208
Facilitators: Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Annette Polonsky 484-6682

Tuesday January 4, 1 pm – Scrabble® and Babble • *Please note new time as agreed to by all participants • Home of Carol Oppenheim, 326 Belltown Road, Owings Mills 21117
Facilitators: Ruth Casper 443-394-1449 • Carol Oppenheim 363-2482

Wednesday January 5, 1:30 pm – Amazing Jewish Writers • Home of Devorah Brooks, 509 Old Crossing Drive, 21208 • Book selections with a focus on Israel. Please call if unable to attend session. • Facilitator: Devorah Brooks 913-4425

Monday January 10, 1:30 pm – Game Time • ZOOM only • We will be playing a variety of online games such as Scattergories®, Trivia®, Bingo, and Guess The Baby Pics. All you need is paper and pen, then ZOOM in to play at home. • Facilitators: Teri Markowitz 375-6353 • Diane Burkom 486-4972

Friday January 14, 1:30 pm – Triumphs of Animation: The Princess and the Frog • Home of Suzanne Strutt, 12 Valleywood Court, Timonium 21093 • Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Suzanne Strutt 561-5516

Monday January 17, 1:30 pm – Baltimore History – What You May or May Not Know ZOOM only
Watch a few short films narrated by Johns Hopkins, Executive Director of Baltimore Heritage.
Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • (Host: Diane Burkom 303-2967)

Friday January 21, 1:30 pm – Rummikub® • Home of Annette Polonsky, 11 Slade, 112, 21208
Facilitators: Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Annette Polonsky 484-6682

Monday January 24, 1:30 pm – Game Time ZOOM only • Online games (see Monday, January 10 listing) • Facilitators: Teri Markowitz 375-6353 • Diane Burkom 486-4972

Tuesday February 1, 1 pm – Scrabble® and Babble • Home of Ruth Casper, 800 Southerly Road, 1003, Towson 21286 • (see January 4 listing) • Facilitators: Ruth Casper 443-394-1449 • Carol Oppenheim 363-2482

Monday February 7, 1:30 pm – Game Time ZOOM only • Online games (see Monday, January 10 listing) • Facilitators: Teri Markowitz 375-6353 • Diane Burkom 486-4972

Friday February 11, 1:30 pm – Jewish Masters of Design: Saul Steinberg & Saul Bass • ZOOM only
Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Suzanne Strutt 561-5516
Monday February 21, 1:30 PM – Baltimore History – What You May or May Not Know • ZOOM only • (see January 17 listing) • Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • (Host: Diane Burkom 303-2967)

Monday February 28, 1:30 PM – Game Time ZOOM only • Online games • Facilitators: Teri Markowitz 375-6353 • Diane Burkom 486-4972

Tuesday March 1, 1 PM – Scrabble® and Babble • Home of Carol Oppenheim, 326 Belltown Road, Owings Mills 21117 • (see January 4 listing) Facilitators: Ruth Casper 443-394-1449 • Carol Oppenheim 363-2482

Thursday March 3, 1:30 PM – Current Women's Issues • Home of Devorah Brooks, 509 Old Crossing Drive, 21208 • Enlightened conversations about today's current issues (helped along with a little time-honored Jewish wisdom). Kindly RSVP. Please call if unable to attend session. Facilitator: Devorah Brooks 913-4425

March 7, 1:30 PM, Open Studio: Polymer Clay • ZOOM only • Supplies available from Michael's, Amazon; Sculpy III or Fimo • Please call before the class to discuss best materials choices. Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Suzanne Strutt 561-5516

Tuesday March 8, 1:30 PM – Let's Knit and Stitch • ZOOM only • Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Merle Ann Siegelman 664-8855

Wednesday March 9, 1:30 PM – Create Your Own Greeting Cards • ZOOM only • TBD materials fee to be paid to facilitator. Make 12 greeting at home for your family and friends. Safe pickup location for all materials to be provided. • Facilitators: Teri Markowitz 375-6353 • Diane Burkom 486-4972

Thursday March 10, 1:00 PM – Non-Fiction Discussion Group: The Ride of Her Life, A True Story, Elizabeth Letts • Home of Deane Sevel • 3305 Janellen Drive • Facilitator: Deane Sevel 484-0643

Friday March 11, 1:30 PM – Triumphs of Animation: Wall-E • Home of Suzanne Strutt, 12 Valleywood Court, Timonium 21093 • Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Suzanne Strutt 561-5516

March 14, 1:30 PM, Open Studio: Polymer Clay • ZOOM only • (see March 7 listing) • Facilitators: Norma Axel 308-0827 • Suzanne Strutt 561-5516

Tuesday March 15, 1:30 PM, Movies We Love: The Turning Point • Home of Merle Ann Siegelman, 6205 Sareva Drive 21209 • Facilitators: Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Merle Ann Siegelman 664-8855

Friday March 18, 1:30 PM – Rummikub® • Home of Annette Polonsky, 11 Slade 112, 21208 • Facilitators: Brenda Cohen 581-2229 • Annette Polonsky 484-6682
Special events coming later in the year: Tea at Gramercy Mansion and Tuesdays with Ann! • Details to be announced.

From the Registrar

I’m the registrar and I’m looking for work. Only 26 members have registered for Live & Learn courses. BUT THE 2021-2022 YEAR IS NOT OVER! There is one Live & Learn program beginning in January 2022, and 10 programs begin in March 2022. The numbers in front of each course name refer to the Live & Learn booklet, where you can find more descriptive material about the courses.

January 2022

8. Game Time on ZOOM • Fee $15 • Mondays, January 10, 24; February 7, 28 1:30 PM  Playing Scattergories®, Trivia®, Bingo, and Guess the Baby pics.

March 2022

3. Company Tours • Fee $10 • Tuesday, March 29 • 1:30 PM • System Source, Computer Museum  A hands-on, interactive collections of computer gadgets and technology.
   Monday, May 29 • 10 AM Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum 90-minute tour plus lunch on your own at By the Dock.

4. Create Your Own Greeting Cards • ZOOM • Wednesday, March 9 • 1:30 PM • Fee $5 plus material fee paid to facilitator • Making greeting cards at home. Safe pick-up of materials to be arranged.

5. Current Women’s Issues • Fee $15 • Thursdays, March 3, April 7, May 5 • 1:30 PM
   Your Topic suggestions are super encouraged.

13. Look Great, Feel Great • Fee $5 plus lunch • Wednesday, March 23 • 11:30 AM • Lunch in Nordstrom Café and a make-up demonstration in a private room. Make-up artists will demonstrate make up techniques with tips and tricks.

14. Movies We Love • 1:30 PM • Fee $15 • Tuesday, March 15, The Turning Point • Tuesday, April 19, Ratatouille • Tuesday, May 17, A Room with a View • Shown at the home of Merle Ann Siegelman, 6205 Sareva Drive 21209

16. Open Studio: Polymer Clay • Fee $20 • Mondays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 1:30 PM • Can accept two more registrants.

20. Sing Along With Sue • Fee $5 • Thursday, May 19 • 11 AM •

9. Hand and Foot Canasta • Fee $15 • Fridays, May 6, 13, 20 • 1 PM Needs one more registrant.

The spring sessions of the two lunch programs also have room for more participants:

7. Dining ‘Round the World • 1 PM • Fee $5 each plus lunch
   7C Thursday, April 28, Liberatore’s
   7D Thursday, May 26, Crystal Thai
12. **Lunchtime Dine A-Round** • Noon • Fee $5 each plus lunch

12C Wednesday, April 27, TBA
12D Wednesday, May 18, TBA

Many of the other programs would also enjoy having a few more members. So, if you have your *Live & Learn* booklet, take another look. See if you can register. If you have mislaid or lost the program book, contact Judy Cataldo for another copy. Judy Cataldo 410-602-1132, judicat@verizon.net

If you have already registered and want to add some courses contact Irene Palter by email or phone. Irene Palter, 410-252-0246, robert.palter@verizon.net

**BNC Membership**

Brandeis National Committee welcomes new members, men as well as women. Annual membership is $60. Membership for spouses of annual members is $40; of life members, $60. To join, call Brenda Cohen, 410-581-2229, or Hara Eckstein, 410-453-6608.

**Roster Updates**

New member: Carole Marder, 7 Slade Avenue 413, 21208; home 484-2543, cell 800-7697, csmarder@hotmail.com

New address: Ruth Casper, 800 Southerly Road, 1003, Towson 21286

**Good and Welfare**

Condolences:

- To the family of longtime member Carol Cummins
- To Leah Valentine on the loss of her husband

Speedy Recovery:

- To Annette Polonsky, who had cataract surgery

Updates: Marcia Snyder is recovering well. • Eva Silversmith is homebound and would like phone calls.

**Mitzvah Cards**

In memory of Martin Valentine, M.D., Leah Valentine’s husband, by Suzanne Strutt

**In Memoriam**

Carol Cummins, a longtime member and enthusiastic supporter of the Brandeis National Committee, died suddenly on October 20. A vivacious participant, she took part in many courses, helped plan the *Live & Learn* offerings, and made many friends among the members. The Chapter mourns her loss; surely her memory is for a blessing. Donations in her memory were made by the board of the Baltimore Chapter of BNC, Norma Axel, Diane Burkrom, Brenda Cohen, Carol Oppenheim, Irene Palter, Annette Polonsky, Leslie M. Sandler, Ellen Schwartz, Deane Sevel, Rena Shenk, Merle Ann Siegelman, Marcia Snyder, Judy Stein, and Suzanne Strutt.
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.
The BNC Bulletin is published solely for distribution to its members by the Baltimore Chapter of Brandeis National Committee, a non-profit group established to benefit Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts. Editor: Carol Oppenheim. Revolving Proofreaders: Diane Burkom, Brenda Cohen, Leslie Sandler, Merle Ann Siegelman, Marcia Snyder, and Suzanne Strutt.