

Have a great summer!! The Brandeis Blast will return on August 15th.

**STATE OF THE CHAPTER: A Report on Our Activity
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

I think that everyone can agree on this word to describe the past year: UNEXPECTED. Nonetheless, it's really NOT UNEXPECTED for this dedicated group of talented women to have achieved great things even in a year of isolation.

1. We retained 417 annual members. We upped our technology skills and learned to be together virtually via zoom.
2. We've held:
 - about 140 study guide sessions
 - 9 Book & Author talks (June is scheduled)
 - frequent discussions on a variety of topics
 - 29 committee meetings + nominating committee
 - 5 board and chapter meetingsAnd sent weekly emailed communications to our members.
3. We've raised some money too:
 - Brunch & Learn raised \$960
 - 2 Special Events music programs raised \$1240
 - Spring Lunch raised \$1300
 - Book & Author series raised over \$12,000 (with one more remaining)
4. Livia and I have attended Regional meetings, National presidents' meetings, National committee meetings, and National focus group meetings as representatives of our chapter.

You'll be pleased to learn that I've negotiated with Temple Beth Ami to continue to meet there at a mutually agreeable start date. Tentatively, ALL meetings will be on Wednesdays whether we have half of the social hall or all of the social hall.

It has been an expected pleasure to share our time together, as always. It's been delightful working with Livia W as my co-president. I look forward to the new year with Beth S my co-president.

Thank you to everyone who shares our success, whether you participated to plan, and/or participated to attend our MANY zoom events. I look forward to the fall when I hope that we will meet in person again!

Linda R
Co-president, Greater Washington Chapter

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We are cautiously making plans to try to meet in person next fall. May be outdoors or in, masks or none: September is a long way off... Obviously, we will comply with local regulations and all safety standards of our host location(s).

Get Ready for a CELEBRATION for MEMBERS ONLY!

*Linda and Beth
Co-Presidents*

**Don't forget to renew your membership to join the fun:
giving.brandeis.edu/bncrenew**

In the Meantime:

COMMITTEES ARE WORKING OVER THE SUMMER.

Contact the Chair to Participate

Membership **Beverly A
Marlene G**

Special Events **Susan L
Ellen K**

Study Guide **Judy G
Ilene H**



BNC Greater Washington Chapter Book & Author Series

June 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Meet the Author



Kristin Harmel
The Book of Lost Names
June 7, 2021
1:00 p.m.



[Register Here](#)

Kristin Harmel is the *New York Times* bestselling author of a dozen novels including *The Book of Lost Names*.

Eva Traube Abrams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida, is shelving books one morning when her eyes lock on a photograph in a newspaper nearby. She freezes; it is an image of a book she hasn't seen in sixty-five years—a book she recognizes as *The Book of Lost Names*.

The book in the photograph, an eighteenth-century religious text thought to have been taken from France in the waning days of the war, is one of the most fascinating cases. It appears to contain some sort of code, but researchers don't know where it came from—or what the code means. Only Eva holds the answer—but will she have the strength to revisit old memories and help reunite those lost during the war?

Our final Book and Author zoom series for the season is on Monday, June 7. Leslie M will once again be our Moderator Extraordinaire. We hope you will join us for the season finale.

Thank you for all your support over this past year. We rose to the challenge and because of your participation, we raised over \$12,000 for Brandeis.

We are currently discussing what Book & Author will look like next year given the circumstances. We are entertaining the idea of an in-person luncheon or possibly some hybrid where we have a luncheon and also perhaps some authors on Zoom. Please take a minute and let us know if everything remains open, would you still participate in a Zoom event with an author. Also, let us know if given the current state of affairs if you would be comfortable attending a luncheon with potentially 200+ people. It is important to hear from you so we can bring you the programming that most of you want. You can send an email message to either Bonnie L or Pam P.

If you have any suggestions for authors for the coming year, please do share. Have a great summer everyone!!

Bonnie, Pam, & Barbara
Co-Chairs, Book & Author Committee

WE WANT YOU BACK IN OUR BRANDEIS FAMILY

*We have had a very difficult year and finally we are hoping that we are going back to "normal".
We are looking forward to a New Year.*

Study Guide is busy planning activities for us to learn and enjoy.
We're hoping that our lunches and luncheons and FUN will resume too.

The one element that is missing is **YOU!**

Please rejoin our Brandeis Chapter!!! We miss you and we need you!
We look forward to reconnecting and catching up!

Dues are \$60 for the year. If you are married and join as a couple it is \$100 for the year.
We have seen an increase in men joining our chapter.

Please do not hesitate to email Marlene G or Beverly A if you have any questions.

Beverly and I look forward to an exciting year and want very much for you to
be part of our Brandeis Greater Washington Chapter.

STUDY GUIDE

Registration Information: Only paid-up current members may register for study groups. Dues may be paid online at giving.brandeis.edu/BNCmembership

Registrations must be received at least 3 days before the study group. Please make a list of the study groups in which you want to register and send the list with your name, phone number, email address, and **check payable to BNC** to the Registrar:

Roz A Gaithersburg, MD 20878

You will be sent an email confirmation when your registration is processed. If you don't receive a confirmation, please contact Roz before the date of the program. *An email with the Zoom link will be sent before each Study Group.*

Directions for using Zoom to connect to site.

As we will be checking names for registration, please have your name shown on your Zoom account. **Admission will be delayed for "iPad 1234" or "mom" as your identity is unknown.** Here are directions if you need them:

1. Go to **zoom.us** You will need your email address and zoom password, as it will be requested.
2. Go to **My Account**
3. Find **Personal** and highlight **Profile**
4. Find Name: **Edit** will be on the right side of the screen
5. Enter your first and last name; if desired and appropriate, you can enter your partner's name also

STUDY GROUP JUNE

Remains of the Jewish Presence in Poland



While in Poland, Myrna Tech went to visit Goniadz, the village that her grandmother left to come to America in 1906. The entire cemetery was overgrown, but she was able to find one gravestone with her family name, Tekotsky. After Hitler's murder of almost all the Jews in Poland, including all the Jews in Goniadz, the cemeteries are the only evidence of the long Jewish presence in Poland. Unless the Jewish cemeteries are restored, there will be no memorial to the generations of Polish Jews. Myrna will discuss the International Jewish Cemetery Project's mission to catalogue every Jewish burial site throughout the world and her effort in Poland.

Thursday, June 10, 11:00 a.m., \$15

Minimum: 10 participants



DO YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA FOR NEXT YEAR'S STUDY GUIDE?



Do you know of an interesting speaker for one or two sessions?

Do **YOU** Have a passion for an activity that you would like to share with others?

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR IDEAS!!

Virtual Tours, Crafts, Cooking or Baking class

PUT ON YOUR CREATIVE THINKING CAP

Let us know: Judy G
Ilene H

Looking forward to the reNEWed
Brandeis Greater Washington Chapter!!

We HOPE to SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!



SAVE THE DATE for STUDY GUIDE!!!
ADVANCE NOTICE OF BNC's
ARMCHAIR TRAVEL SERIES
JEWISH HISTORY AND JEWISH SITES OF EUROPE!

Thursday mornings, 10:30 AM

October 21, 2021 PARIS



December 16, 2021 LONDON

February 17, 2022 ROME



Get comfy, no passport required to zip around the globe.
Depending on circumstances, you will be able to safely view
these guided tours in person at a shared location or from your
own living room.

SAVE THE DATE for STUDY GUIDE!!!
Capacity will be limited.

BOOK FUND



Are you celebrating a special event, such as a wedding? Please support Brandeis' Library by sending celebratory cards. A gift, through the Book Fund, enriches the libraries of Brandeis University. Some of the levels of support are:

\$10 "To Life" Tribute card

\$18 Louis D. Brandeis Tribute card

\$35 Learned Research Journal which provides funds toward a subscription to a scholarly journal and the person receiving the gift will receive a keepsake leatherette folder informing them of your gift.

Contact Linda H for higher levels of donation.

Please include \$1 with your donation to cover the cost of postage and the envelope.

Cards will be mailed when the donation is received.

Linda H

SUSTAINING THE MIND

Linda H is accepting donations starting at \$10.

NOTE: Please add \$1 to your donation to cover postage.

Linda H

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of any member of our Brandeis community who has had a death or illness in the family BNC will send a complimentary card to that person from the chapter. If you would like to share a simcha in your family, we will be happy to include your good news in our **Simcha Gram** published biweekly in the Brandeis Blast.

Lois F

Birthday Greeting Project – 3rd quarter 2021

Send an adorable animated birthday email greeting to a friend for a donation of \$1.00 per greeting and help the chapter raise money for **Sustaining the Mind**. One Greeting will be sent with all the names listed.

See the BLAST that came in your email.

Cathy F