

Brandeis National Committee

Greater Washington Chapter



**There's a
Study Group
for you!**

Study Guide Part Two January - March 2023

Register NOW



Sign up promptly for any programs that you would like to attend. We understand that life happens - unexpected doctor's appointments, babysitting requests, waiting for household repairs, etc. In the past, we could be more flexible and always offer the options of paying in advance or at the door for in-person programs. Currently, however, if we do not reach the minimum number of attendees required for a program, our contracts with venues and some speakers obligate us to cancel those programs at least two weeks before the event date to receive a full refund of our rental and/or speaker fees. Of course, if we meet our minimum, you would still be able to pay at the door or sign up for a Zoom right before a program, but you would need to check with the Registrar to make sure the program is still being offered. Thank you for registering early!



Due to the continued uncertainty caused by Covid, all in-person speakers can be changed to Zoom if the conditions require it. Watch the Blast for updates!

January-March 2023 Programs
Registration begins December 5
Registration Information and Registration Form are located
at the end of the Study Guide

Index

Armchair Travel Tours

Tour Ukraine p. 4

Tour Beautiful Greece p. 4

Tour in Person

Ladew Topiary Garden and Mansion p. 9

Art of Fire p. 8

Cooking

The Miracle of Meringue p. 6

The Fine Art of Making Strudel p. 9

Speakers

Equality and Diversity in Jewish Spaces with Sabrina Sojourner p. 5

The Gardner Museum Heist, Stephen Kurkjian p. 5

The Vow-A Love Story, Michael Ruskin p. 7

Theater

Olney Theater, *Kinky Boots* p. 7

Games

Beginning Mah Jongg p. 8

Hand, Knee, and Foot p. 8

Let's Do Lunch p. 11

Registration Information p. 12

Registration Form p. 13



Be an armchair traveler this January as one of our favorite tour guides, Jacob Shoshan, leads us on an exploration of Jewish culture and landmarks in pre-invasion Ukraine and Greece!



Born in Jerusalem, Shoshan is a licensed tour guide in Israel as well as a teacher and lecturer at The Tour Guide College in Israel. He is also a Senior Tour Director and Lecturer for the Geographical Society in Israel. Shoshan has visited 98 countries and led tours in 65 countries on all six continents. Shoshan is fluent in 15 languages too. He presents in-depth discussions on Jewish history, philosophy, and culture and is deeply involved in Holocaust education.

23. Tour of Jewish Ukraine

Join your Brandeis friends and tour guide Jacob Shoshan for our tour as we learn about the very rich Jewish history in the Southern region of the Pale of Settlement. We will travel from Kiev to Odessa, between WWII and the 2022 Russian Invasion. We will visit centers of Jewish culture, discover the birthplace of the Hassidic Movement, and meet some great personalities. We'll also meet a special Jewish Sect in the Crimean Peninsula and follow an amazing pilgrimage which still takes place today.



Date: Tuesday, January 3
Time: 10:30 – 12:00
Cost: \$20.00
Location: Zoom
Enrollment: 20 – Minimum, No Maximum

24. Tour of Beautiful Greece

Join us on a trip to Thessaloniki and Athens, home to ancient and special Jewish communities – and the site of many tragic events during the years of the Holocaust. A beautiful and fascinating cradle of Western Civilization, Greece was a haven for many of the Jews who left Spain after the Edict of Expulsion.



Date: Thursday, January 19
Time: 10:30 – 12:00
Cost: \$20.00
Location: Zoom
Enrollment: 20 – Minimum, No Maximum



25. Equality and Diversity in Jewish Spaces

What is it like to be a Jew of color? Hazzan Sabrina Sojourner, a Jewish woman of color, is a community chaplain and spiritual leader for the Charles E. Smith Life Communities campus. She's among many Jewish women of color calling on the broader Jewish community to stand together "at the intersection of racism, sexism and anti-Semitism. . . against white supremacy, patriarchy and religious oppression in all its forms" She recently launched "Training the Heart to Listen," a new tool for congregations to create transformational conversations for diversity and inclusion.

She also teaches on a variety of topics and tends to life-cycle events, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs for unaffiliated families in the Greater Washington D.C. area and across the country.



Date: Monday, January 30

Time: 1:30 – 2:30

Cost: \$20.00, \$22 at the door

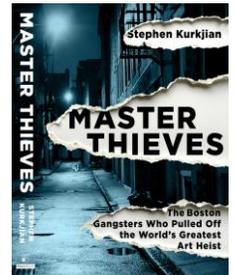
Location: Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Rd, Rockville

Enrollment: 15 – Minimum, No Maximum

26. The Gardner Museum Heist

In the early morning hours of March 18, 1990, a vehicle pulled up near the side entrance of the Gardner Museum. Two men in police uniforms pushed the Museum buzzer, stated they were responding to a disturbance and requested to be let in. The guard on duty broke protocol and allowed them through the employee entrance. At the fake officers' request, he stepped away from the watch desk. He and another security guard were handcuffed in the basement and the thieves departed 81 minutes later with 13 of the Gardner's works of art.

Now over 30 years after the theft, Stephen Kurkjian, who was the principal reporter on the case for The Boston Globe, has written a gripping account of the still-unsolved heist. In *Master Thieves*, Kurkjian reveals how the two criminal gangs battling for control of the Boston underworld knew of the museum's poor security and had a motive: to pressure an exchange that would result in the release of one gang's leader from federal prison.



Date: Thursday, February 2

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Cost: \$20.00

Location: Zoom

Enrollment: 15 – Minimum, No Maximum

5. The Miracle of Meringue

Rescheduled program

Do you know what a meringue is and how to make one? Did you ever attempt to make a meringue, but it just did not work?

Meringue is a type of dessert, cookie, or candy often associated with Italian, Swiss, and French cuisine. Traditionally it is made from whipped egg whites and sugar, but it must be handled correctly to get the best results. Join us in Beth's kitchen to learn the tricks and how to make some delicious meringue treats! The parking is \$1 per hour plus a \$0.50 processing fee. There are three free spots in the loading dock that can be used for up to three hours.



Date: Thursday, February 9

Time: 1:00 – 2:30

Cost: \$20

Location: The home of Beth S

Enrollment: 6 – Minimum, 14 – Maximum

Please Save the Date



Board Meetings

January 4

February 1

April

May 3

June 7

**All Board Meetings will be held at
Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Rd, Potomac**

General Membership Meeting

March 1

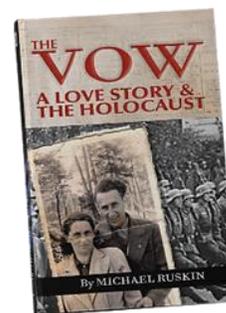
**General Meetings will be held at
Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Rd, Rockville**

27. *The Vow: A Love Story and the Holocaust*

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us by learning about an incredible love story. Join Michael Ruskin as he presents his book

The Vow: A Love Story and the Holocaust. Mr. Ruskin's book is based on the lives of his late parents David and Dora Ruskin who were Holocaust survivors from Lithuania. Beginning from the couples' early childhood in the 1930s, the book depicts their special bond amidst the death and destruction of the Holocaust through their liberation and arrival to America.

The book is more than an account of the unimaginable horrors his parents went through; it is also a tribute to their love, faith, and courage to survive. Their relationship truly exemplifies the strength of the human spirit. This was the message they wanted to leave for humanity, but unfortunately their words were never heard. This book will be their "voice" for humanity to remember.



Dates: Tuesday, February 14

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Cost: \$20

Location: Zoom

Enrollment: 10 – Minimum, No Maximum



28. *Kinky Boots* at The Olney Theatre

Join us for a delightful afternoon of lunch and a trip to Olney Theatre. The uplifting Tony, Grammy, and Olivier Award-winning hit by superstar Cyndi Lauper lands on the Olney Theatre Mainstage in spike heels and ready to strut. Charlie Price is desperately trying to save his family's shoe factory, when an encounter with Lola, a London drag queen in need of a quick repair for her boot, unites them in a new business venture. For their plan to work, the macho culture of Charlie's economically depressed industrial hometown is going to have to co-exist with the gender-fluid exuberance of Lola and her queens. Hilarious and moving, *Kinky Boots* is an optimistic, 21st Century tale of finding community and family in unlikely circumstances.



Date: Wednesday, February 15

Time: 12:00 – 4:00, the theatre production begins at 2:00

Cost: \$52 plus the cost of lunch

Location: Olney Theatre, 2001 Olney Sandy Spring Rd, Olney

Enrollment: 25 – Minimum, 40 – Maximum

29. Hand, Knee, and Foot

Come and join the fun and learn to play Hand, Knee, and Foot, also known as Triple Play. If you like Canasta, you will LOVE Hand, Knee, and Foot! Come learn the fundamentals of this popular game in two sessions taught by Mitzi E. Get your Canasta group together to learn this version of the game that is so popular!

The PREREQUISITE for this activity is experience as a canasta player.

Date: Tuesdays, February 21 and February 28

Time: 1:00 – 3:00

Cost: \$18

Location: The home of Mitzi E

Enrollment: 4 – Minimum, 8 – Maximum



30. Beginning Mah Jongg

Do you need refresher lessons if you haven't played in a long time or maybe have never played before? This is the class for you to learn from the pros! In only three short and enjoyable lessons, you will be ready to start your own group.

Please bring a 2023 Mah Jongg card.

Date: Tuesdays, March 7, 14, and 21

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Cost: \$18

Location: The home of Rita W

Enrollment: 4 – Minimum, 8 – Maximum



31. Art of Fire

Art of Fire is a state-of-the-art glass blowing studio located in a renovated dairy barn in the Agricultural Reserve in northern Montgomery County. First, join us for lunch and then artist Forest Holcomb will give us a history of the studio and demonstrate how to blow a glass piece from beginning to finished product.



Date: Thursday, March 9

Time: 1:30 – 2:30, lunch at 12:00

Cost: \$18

Location: 7901 Hawkins Creamery Rd, Gaithersburg

Enrollment: 10 – Minimum, 20 – Maximum



32. The Fine Art of Making Strudel



Come and join pastry chef Jaime S along with our very own Beth S to learn the fine art of making strudel! A strudel is a type of pastry, typically sweet though savory versions are also quite popular, that consists of several layers of thin dough topped with filling and rolled into a log shape. Apple strudel is perhaps the most common type, especially in some regions such as the United States. Doesn't that sound yummy?

Date: Thursday, March 30

Time: 1:00 – 3:00

Cost: \$20

Location: The home of Jaime S

Enrollment: 4 – Minimum, 8 – Maximum



37. Ladew Topiary Gardens & Mansion Tour

Join us for a tour of Ladew Gardens, named “One of the Top 5 Gardens in North America,” deemed “the most outstanding topiary garden in America” by the Garden Club of America, and featured as one of “ten incredible topiary gardens around the world” by Architectural Digest. We will spend 1 hour and 15 minutes being guided through Ladew’s 22 acres of gardens that feature more than 100 larger-than-life topiary forms. We will also take a 30–40-minute tour of the 18th century historic Manor House which reflects the unique and inspired life of a remarkable American character, Harvey Ladew. The house, which was built over three centuries, is home to Ladew’s extraordinary collection of English antiques and equestrian-themed art. The Manor House preceded and inspired the gardens, which reflect its beauty, elegance, and humor. The program fee also includes a salad or a sandwich and homemade chips, a drink, and a cookie.

Date: Friday, May 12

Time: 10:30 – 2:00

Cost: \$45

Location: Ladew Topiary Gardens, 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton, MD

Enrollment: 15 – Minimum, 45 – Maximum



#37 Even though this program is not until May, we need to have a minimum of 15 people by March to proceed. You can still sign up after March if there is room, but please don't wait!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look What's Planned so far for the Spring



- Tour of the Perry Belmont House
- Delicious tea at Simplici-Tea
- Tour of the Naval Academy's Jewish Chapel in Annapolis



- Guided tour of Tudor Place, lunch, and tour the gardens
- Tour and lunch at Ladew Gardens
- Tour of Emory Grove
- Tour of Washington Grove



- Food Truck and Friends



Let's Do Lunch meets the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm. Our focus the rest of the year will be on Ethnic Restaurants. This is a great way to get to know Brandeis members in a small setting.

January 11, 2023

Villa Maya, 5532 Norbeck Rd (turn into Bauer Drive, Safeway Parking Lot), Rockville
A family run restaurant with a variety of traditional Mexican and Tex-Mex favorites on the menu

February 8, 2023

Botanero Restaurant, 800 Pleasant Dr, Suite 160 (King Farm Village Center), Rockville
A cozy neighborhood restaurant serving globally inspired small plates

March 8, 2023

Hunan Delight, 18220 Village Center Dr, Olney
An established Chinese restaurant specializing in Mandarin Cuisine, offering daily lunch specials

May 10, 2023

Spanish Diner, 7271 Woodmont Ave, Bethesda
Spanish comfort food from Chef Jose Andres, well known for what he does with the World Kitchen in areas hit by disasters

June 14, 2023

Beteseb Restaurant, 8201 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring
A casual, family-owned restaurant offering Ethiopian staples

For reservations contact:

Bobbie H or
Sharon R

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- ◇ Only paid-up current members may register.
- ◇ Registration for study groups is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ◇ Once your registration is accepted for a study group, **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN UNLESS THE SESSION IS FILLED OR CANCELED.**
- ◇ You will be notified if a Study Guide Event is filled or canceled. You may then request a transfer to another Study Guide event occurring by June 30th, donate your payment to BNC, or request a refund.
- ◇ If your home is being used for an activity or if you are teaching or speaking at the event, there is no cost to you for that event.
- ◇ Coordinators need to register and pay for the event.

NOTIFICATIONS

- ◇ The registrar will confirm your registration.
- ◇ Approximately two weeks prior to the study group, you will be contacted by the Coordinator. **If you do not hear from the Coordinator, please contact the registrar, Gail Rubinson, gail.rubinson@gmail.com**
- ◇ If you cannot attend the study group, please call the Coordinator. Please do not fill your own space, the Coordinator will fill the space with someone from the waiting list.

SNOW DAY POLICY

- ◇ When Montgomery County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, in-person study groups will be canceled. **Programs with speakers offered in-person and/or on Zoom, will continue as planned on Zoom.** If schools have a delayed opening, our events will be held as scheduled.

Registration begins December 5, 2022
REGISTRATION FORM



NAME _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL _____

EVENT # _____ TITLE _____ \$ _____

TOTAL COST: \$ _____

SEND STUDY GUIDE REGISTRATION CHECKS PAYABLE TO **BNC** TO:
GAIL R

BRANDEIS NATIONAL COMMITTEE, GREATER WASHINGTON CHAPTER