Together At Last - Opening Meeting
President's Message

Dear Friends,

August 25 was a day of such joy! Over 50 members of our chapter along with prospective members were at Lomas Santa Fe Country Club patio to dine, socialize, and hear about our upcoming Study and Social Group programs.

Even though we are in the middle of a pandemic, the feeling of ‘things returning to a sense of normal’ permeated the day.

Iris Kanter and Myra Brand, along with a group leaders and coordinators, led a lively and entertaining presentation. There’s something about ‘in person’ that made the day! We will be using both Zoom and ‘in person’ this year.

I truly believe the challenges of the past year have made us stronger as shown by membership numbers and Study and Social Group support. Being able to engage online with friends is a benefit of all the effort put forth by the chairs and leaders.

My opening remarks spoke to the value of our connection to Brandeis University. ‘We are so proud of how its pillars of truth and justice mean even more today. With the world facing hate and distrust of groups because of faith and color, to support a place that for 73 years has grounded itself on inclusivity for everyone is a matter of pride for all of us.’ The incoming class numbers 953, one of the largest ever, from 39 states and 29 countries; 20% comes from outside the U.S. Over 250 faculty serve to make the Brandeis experience unique for each student.

I encourage you to sign onto brandeis.edu/now to read about everything going on there. I was fascinated by Dr. Jonathan Sarna’s analysis on the spate of programing about Unorthodox and My Unorthodox Life, not just as entertainment but as a relevant take on the merging of entertainment and religion.

To all who are observing the New Year, I wish you a sweet and healthy 5782, and may we come together again soon to share our Brandeis family.

Linda

Mission Statement: Brandeis National Committee is dedicated 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, nonsectarianism and service to the community

San Dieguito Chapter 2021 - 2022

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See our chapter website at http://blogs.brandeis.edu/bncsandieguito/
Opening Meeting

It was our first live, face-to-face chapter gathering since March 6, 2019, when a week later everything shut down. The event was a thrill for everyone and a chance to greet new members we had never met. ‘Oh, it’s good to see all of you, not just a Zoom thumbnail’ was a common refrain. To Barb Howard and Lenore Shapp, thank you for planning the luncheon at the Lomas Santa Fe Country Club. Thank you, Iris Kanter and Myra Brand, co-chairs of the Study and Social Groups, for providing our entertainment and education for the year! Thanks also go to registrar Barb Howard, and to Joan Kushinoff and Barb for their invaluable technical help.

President Linda Epstein welcomed everyone, especially new members and visitors, who, hopefully, are prospective members. Then Iris and Myra donned masks, plastic face shields and rubber gloves, grabbed a container of disinfectant wipes, and carefully scrubbed the microphones as they called on study and social group coordinators, below, to describe their plans for the year.

Herschel Kaufman, Diana Finkelstein, Sharon Kroopkin, Linda Levine, Linda Epstein, Gayle Wise, Myra Brand and Iris Kanter
Thank You for Your Generosity!

It was heartwarming to receive more than two trunk-loads of items for those living in Safe Parking. How grateful Jewish Family Service was when they were delivered!

We really appreciate everyone who brought donations and helped carry them to the cars, and to Gayle Wise and Suzie Kaplan, Cheryl and Herschel Kaufman, who drove them downtown.

Kudos to all from Social Action Co-Chairs Sharon Kroopkin and Susan Gail.

Suzie Kaplan, Gayle Wise

Most Study and Social Groups Begin in October. Meantime, to our Jewish members, have a happy, safe, and healthy New Year

A Surprise Thank You at the Luncheon

Four board members, Barb Howard, Iris Kanter, Myra Brand, and Jane Polgar, were quite surprised when they were presented a commemorative plate as thanks for their work last year. It is illustrated with a picture of with the Brandeis Libraries.
Historical Fiction Group Zooms with Author

With as many as 36 in attendance, this was probably one of the best attended zoom-with-an-author sessions our chapter has ever sponsored. Thanks go to Historical Fiction coordinator Barb Howard and Charlie Zieky, who led the talk on *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. The author (outlined in yellow below) described in a very personal talk, similarities to her own mother, Indian society past and present, her work and the long process of rewriting.

Joshi came to this country as a child but has gone back to India throughout her life, observing the people, customs, colors, food and herbal treatments. The end result is a can’t-put-down novel with fascinating characters (likeable and not) from all levels of society. The book was released after twelve years’ work just as Covid kept bookstores closed and Amazon too busy, as Joshi said, shipping toilet paper rather than bothering with books. She turned to Zoom, speaking to readers all over, finally realizing success. In fact, the best-selling novel will become a Netflix series, headed by the producer of Downton Abbey, who said this will be a sort of Indian version of Downton, similarly revealing all levels of society.

Her second book, *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*, continues with many of the same characters. It was released in June, and Joshi is willing to return to speak about it with our members.

She wrote to us, although our thanks go to her:

> Thank you, dear readers, for inviting me to the discussion and spending some time with me!
> How wonderful it is to chat with all such smart, articulate readers!
>
> Can’t wait for you to read THE SECRET KEEPER OF JAIPUR. Radha’s story is next in 2023 as she is confronted by 18-year-old Niki, the baby she gave up for adoption. By then perhaps the Miramax TV series will be in production. So stay tuned…. 
Meet a Member

Susan Gail

Early Years, Education, and Family Life

Although born at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, Susan’s childhood was spent in Stuyvesant Town in Manhattan. When she was 13, her family moved to Commack, Long Island where she completed Junior H.S. and graduated from Commack H.S. Susan attended SUNY Oswego, majoring in music. She met and married her first husband there. The couple moved to San Diego in 1978, and have two daughters. Caryn, a cosmetologist, lives in Carmel Valley, and is mom to Mikayla, who is 14 1/2 and is the joy of Susan’s life. Dana who lives in N. Hollywood where she works as a “Trainer to the Stars,” has just become engaged. Susan divorced her husband and was a single mom for many years. She met Ed, the “love of her life” and they were happily married for 23 years before he passed away in 2018.

Career and Volunteer Work

Susan has been a choral singer all her life and had a career for many years. She even sang in Carnegie Hall as the first Freshman member of Swing 16 from Oswego State after winning many accolades during her school years. She left the field and studied to become a Master Make-up Artist. She worked on post-operative patients of plastic surgery as well as burn victims and birth defects for years. She worked in local salons and then opened a private studio in La Jolla. After her marriage to Ed she opened a private studio in her home. She worked primarily with “high end” professional women and taught them how to make themselves as beautiful as they were ready to be. She worked on weddings as well. When Ed got sick she stopped working to become a caregiver along with many in-home workers.

Susan volunteered with the Pacificaires Choir for several years. She volunteered at the used book store at her local library until Covid hit. She is active in her Havurah whose members she met at Temple Solel. She loves to read, swim and exercises almost every day. She is also an active member in her book club.

BNC

Susan met Sharon Kroopkin at an event of the Aviara Women’s Club. She knew about Brandeis from past association, but has really enjoyed joining our chapter. She likes the Zoom classes and the “brilliant Jewish women” who are members. Sharon asked her to serve as co-chair of the Community Service Committee and she accepted but didn’t realize it was a board position. How lucky for us that it worked out so well. Susan has joined in enthusiastically and helped with the recent collection for JFS. When asked if there was anything one would find surprising about her she said “I have a very shy side. I am a great observer and a great team player.” How wonderful for San Dieguito chapter to have a new member like Susan!

Elaine Eisenberg
Brandeis University welcomed students back to campus in late August, after a year of remote learning. Then, orientation activities were interrupted due to Hurricane Henri which caused many of the talks and get-togethers to move to Zoom for a day. Covid testing will be frequent, and the university has separate housing for isolation and quarantine. Undergraduates will take a mix of in-person, online and a combination of classes. If you’re curious what a college orientation is like today, check out https://www.brandeis.edu/orientation/henri.html

Here’s a portrait of the class of ‘25:

• Incoming freshmen have an average GPA of 3.84; nearly 80% ranked in the top 20% of their high school class.
• It’s one of the largest classes in Brandeis' history with 953 students.
• They hail from 39 states and 29 countries. Twenty percent come from outside the United States.
  The whole Brandeis student body represents 43 states and 98 countries.

We wish everyone on campus a successful, safe and healthy year!

Membership Directory and Bulletin – Print Editions

Although the Membership Directory is online and a free copy will be emailed to all our members when the update is finished, probably in October. If you would like to receive a print edition by ‘snail’ mail, please send a check for $8.00 made out to BNC, to Joan Kushinoff, 360 E. 72 St. Apt. A206, New York, NY 10021 (kushijoan@gmail.com)

Members can print the emailed edition for themselves. It is also available on the chapter’s website http://blogs.brandeis.edu/bncsandieguito/.

To access the website Directory, click on the ‘directory’ tab, enter the password BNCcontacts, and then click on the ‘member directory’. NOTE you will only be asked for the password once.

The Bulletin will be emailed to you every other month. It is also available on the chapter website. If you want a print edition of the bulletins, you can have them mailed to you for an annual fee of $10. Please send a check made out to BNC to Joan Kushinoff at the above address.
Update on Study and Social Groups

Because Seacrest cannot currently commit to in-person gatherings due to Covid, the following groups will be meeting via Zoom:

- Best Sellers & American Culture
- Great Decisions
- Medical School for Everyone
- Why Did I Do That? Understanding the Mysteries of Human Behavior
- Great Conductors & Pianists
- Contemporary Literature

All the undecided dates and locations – Zoom or ‘live’ - will be confirmed by the coordinators with a reminder email prior to each meeting. Links to join Zoom will also be sent.

Celebrate!

Happy Birthday

- Sept 4 Peter Polgar, Ilene Mittman
- Sept 20 Nancy Lambuth
- Sept 22 Gail West
- Sept 26 Mickey Kopol
- Sept 30 Marjorie Golden
- Oct 2 Iris Kanter
- Oct 10 Carol Shapiro
- Oct 11 Marcia Abelson
- Oct 16 Joel Kayne
- Oct 17 Sandy Silverman
- Oct 22 Maneck Wadia
- Oct 27 Myra Brand
- Oct 31 Norm Abelson

Happy Anniversary

- Sept 2 Carol & Matt Shakter
- Oct 3 Cynthia & Arthur Birnbaum
- Oct 11 Barbara & Richard Tilker

If you wish to have your special occasion appear here, don’t be shy!
Contact Cheryl Kaufman at herscheryl@gmail.com  619-578-2308
TRIBUTES

Honoring our History Card
To Bev Fremont, Happy Birthday from Peggy & Dave Marks

Light of Reason Card
To Mr. & Mrs. James Metz, in honor of your new home, from Linda & Marvin Epstein
To Myra Brand, Speedy Recovery, from Linda & Marvin Epstein
Mrs. Rae Garfield, in memory of her husband, David Garfield, from Linda & Marvin Epstein
To Jerry Kaswan, in memory of his wife, Joan Kaswan, from Linda & Marvin Epstein
To Myra Brand, Speedy Recovery, from Lenore Shapp
To Myra Bressel, in memory of her husband, Irv Bressel, from Cheryl & Herschel Kaufman
To Jeannie Silver, in memory of her sister, Olivia Benster, from Linda & Marvin Epstein
To Alka Joshi, with thanks for being a guest author for our Historical Fiction Study Group, from the Brandeis Board

TO SEND A TRIBUTE, CONTACT CHERYL KAUFMAN
herscheryl@gmail.com 619-578-2308

$501 Major Book Collection   $25.50 Sustaining the Mind Card
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$56 Learned Research Journal for Medical Research   $18.50 Louis Brandeis Card (Chai)
$36 Learned Research Journal   $10.50 BNC Library Photo Card
$25.50 (or more) BNC Scholarship Campaign Card   $10.50 Book Fund Tribute Card

Mail checks to 3450 Third Avenue, Unit 206, San Diego, CA 92103

Get Well Wishes
Ida Shreiber

With thanks to Carol Shakter for her many years of sending ‘Sunshine’ cards, and welcome to Myrna Gale who will continue the tradition. If you know of news to share, happy or sad, please let her know at galemyrna@yahoo.com
Welcome, New Members!

Marilyn Gordon
Tracy Weiss
Kathryn Salm
Mary Weiss
Mitchell Weiss
Carolyn Wolf
Peter Wolf
Laura Engleberg
Dick Engleberg

Save the Dates
Study and Social Groups begin in October

Check out our chapter website
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