

INSIDE THIS

President Mes- 2 sage

Membership Up- 3 date

CIO Report 4

Study Group 5
Page

Spring Event 7
Report

Installation 9
Invitation

Sunshine News / 10
Tributes 11

BNC 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.

News & Views Conejo Valley Chapter

VOLUME 11 / ISUUE

www.BrandeisConejo.org

We Honor Our Own!

Brandeis Conejo Valley
is turning 10!
And you are invited
to celebrate with us!

10th Anniversary INSTALLATION



Directions: 101 Freeway to Moorpark Rd. Turn left to the 76 gas station. Turn right onto Rolling Oaks Drive. Follow the driveway to the yellow building

Please see invitation on page 9 or go to our web site **www.BrandeisConejo.org** to download





Letter from Your Co-Presidents

What Does Brandeis Mean to You?

For some of you it might mean the opportunity to belong to Study Groups providing learning and sharing with others. For others, who have recently moved to a new area, Brandeis is a way to make new friends and increase one's social life. Being a member of Brandeis is truly belonging to a community of over 500 people who are your neighbors.

Philanthropy is another reason we join Brandeis as a way of supporting an institution that has great meaning to us from its initial founding through its reputation as a stellar University today. The way we continue that support is through growing our membership, providing 80 plus Study Groups, and the wonderful and varied special events that we present throughout the year for our members, guests, and the community at large.

This year on Monday, May 23rd, at our annual Installation, we will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary. We are looking back at our Chapter's 10 years of terrific growth and success from a core of 75 de-

termined and motivated people to the over 500 men and women we have today.

We hope you will join us on May 23rd and continue to support all our other en-

tertaining and educational events that are designed to aid our mission of raising funds for medical research at Brandeis University. In the coming year we will be looking to try some new ideas, to be creative and to try to imagine what would appeal to you, our most important audience. Your Chapter Board is working hard for you, we need you to be our partners in keeping our Chapter and our community growing and thriving.



NEWS & VIEWS -CONEJO VALLEY

CHAPTER

Your Co-Presidents:

Nancy Minkow NVMLCSW@aol.com 818-730-8797 Sue Geiger sgeiger75@gmail.com 805-587-8550





Five of our Past Presidents (Sharon Cohen, Honey Bencomo, Susan Barnett, Helene Lustig, and Ellie Puls) and Sue Geiger took our Spring Event speaker, Jeannie Opdyke Smith, out to dinner at Boccaccio's, Westlake Village (April 2016)





MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Our membership is growing due to our wonderful programs and the creation of many study groups designed to meet the needs of women, men & couples. Most of our new members have learned first hand from current members praising our programs.

Keep it going! As I pass the torch to Ellie, my mentor, I know our chapter's expansion will continue under her excellent leadership. A special thank you to Madeline Ellis, Lila Segal & Renee Spero for all their help & expertise as they assisted me in this position. Looking forward to seeing everyone at future events.

Helene Phillips Membership V.P. 805-807-4846 sweethelene75@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members

Ruth Dersh Marilyn Simon Judy Adler Laurie Slomiak Sandy Block **Orrie Wilner Phyllis Wilner Carol Firestone Lorraine Friedman Janet Brasler Bob Sacks** Allen Zatkin **Dell Smulowitz Mariana Stark Dalya Dektor Barbara Cohen Sylvan Cohen** Barbara Peifer **Bonne Rae London Carol Ferber**

Steve Siff



On April 2016 our original on the town group – "Divas" visited *Air Force Museum in Camarillo.*

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) is an all-volunteer organization, with members from all walks of life, dedicated to preserving the history of WWII aircraft for generations to come.

The Museum Hangar contains artifacts that are currently on display. Some are rare aircrafts from WWII that no longer exist anywhere else in the world. This small gem was built to honor American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance.

NEWS & VIEWS - CONEJO VALLEY

[&]quot;A generation which ignores history has no past, and no future" - Robert Heinlein.

PAGE 4



THANK YOU TO OUR 2015-2016 BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICAION

"The most important political office is that of private citizen"

Louis D. Brandeis Sue Geiger Co-President Nancy Minkow Co-President

Helene Phillips

Barbara Polisky

Vice President, Membership

Vice President, Major Events

Vice President, Tributes

Vice President, Study Groups

Honey Bencomo Treasurer

Madeline Ellis Financial Secretary

Sheila Clapkin Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Shelly Wasserman Chapter Information Officer

Laraine Karelitz Parliamentarian

Lila Segal Director, Re-enrollment

Jessie Pearlman Co-Director, Special Events

Frona DeCovnick Co-Director, Special Events

Barbara Hoffman Study Group Registrar
Bobbi Albert Study Group Registrar
Rhoda Reiner Study Group Registrar

Gertie Sanders Director, Community Service/Sunshine Chair

Renee Spero Director, Associate Members

Alvira Klain Director, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

Marsha Goldin Director, Installation/Decorating Chair

Rita Zarrell Director, Publicity

Helaine Portnoy Historian

Carol Smith Director, Special Projects

Susan Barnett Computer Specialist
Marge Schlaifer Board Hospitality

Ellie Puls Facilitator

Nominating Committee Susan Barnett, Gertie Sanders, Frona DeCov-

nick, Madeline Ellis, Nancy Tanowitz, Doris

Goldberg

WE TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN WELCOMING OUR NEW OUR NEW 2016-2017 BOARD

Sue Geiger Co-President Nancy Minkow Co-President

Ellie Puls Vice President, Membership
Barbara Polisky Vice President, Major Events
Renee Spero Vice President, Tributes

Judy PerlmanMarsha GruenElaine BercyVice President, Study GroupsVice President, Study Groups

Susan Barnett Treasurer

Madeline Ellis Membership Registrar

Lorraine Friedman Recording Secretary

Lila Segal Corresponding Secretary

Shelly Wasserman Chapter Information Officer (CIO)

Laraine Karelitz Parliamentarian

Jessie Pearlman Co-Director, Special Events Frona DeCovnick Co-Director, Special Events

Timmie High Study Group Registrar Bobbi Albert Study Group Registrar

Gertie Sanders
 Marsha Goldin
 Director, Community Service/Sunshine Chair
 Director, Associate Members/Decorating Chair
 Alvira Klain
 Director, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

Judy Elkins Installation Chair
Rita Zarrell Director, Publicity

Helaine Portnoy Historian

Carol Smith Director, Special Projects

Susan Uhler Computer Specialist
Marge Schlaifer Board Hospitality

Nominating Committee: Gertie Sanders, Helene Phillips, Elisa Lazarus,

Harriet Maran, Helaine Portnoy, Barbara Polisky

PLEASE NOTE: WE HAVE TWO OPEN BOARD POSITIONS – RECORDING SECRETARY AND A THIRD STUDY GROUP REGISTRAR. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP OUR CHAPTER BY VOLUNTEERING FOR EITHER OF THESE POSITIONS, PLEASE CONTACT SUSAN BARNETT AT ansbar@roadrunner.com

"Most of the things worth doing in the world had been declared impossible before they were done".

Louis D. Brandeis



Brandeis March, 2016 CIO Report

by Shelly Wasserman Chapter Information Officer

"In honor of all those we have lost. Our hopes and dreams rely on the research Brandeis and others do to eradicate these deadly diseases that take the lives of those we love."

INTERESTING FACTS FROM BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

This is why our chapter supports Brandeis University Research.

THEY GIVE US HOPE.

RESEARCH AT THE ROSENSTIEL BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH CENTER FOCUSES ON FOUR AREAS. THEY ARE:

DNA REPAIR

Aims at understanding how damaged chromosomes are repaired and prevent genomic instability associated with cancer.

NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS

Aims at solving the mysteries of Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), Alzheimer's diease and Lewy Body dementia.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Aims at defining heart muscle architecture and the detailed inner workings of contractile machinery.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES AND AGING

Aims at understanding the molecular basis of ciliopathies, diabetes, spina bifida, infertility, stem cell maintenance and cellular aging.

Through the development and integration of their approaches, researchers in the Center are defining the subcellular components, structures and mechanisms that underlie disease onset and progression.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"No one can really pull you up very high - you lose your grip on the rope. But on your own two feet you can climb mountains".

Louis D. Brandeis





"Sustaining the Mind"

Join the Brandeis National Committee's "<u>Sustaining the Mind:</u>
<u>Scientific Research and Scholarships</u>" campaign, raising funds to foster research in neuroscience and neurodegenerative diseases,

and to establish an endowed scholarship fund for students in the sciences.

Go to: www.brandeis.edu/bnc/philanthropy/ sustaining-the-mind.html and click on the logo to make your donation.

News And Views Staff

Editor-In-Chief:
Alvira K.— alvira@woman-only.com
Copy Editor:
Barbara J.- bjj707@verizon.net



OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

BOARD MEETINGS ARE THE 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH - 10:00 AM

TEMPLE ETZ CHAIM (most months) 1080 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA

MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

("Please call one of the copresidents, Nancy Minkow or Sue Geiger, to verify the time and place.")



PAGE 7

Your Study Group Vice-Presidents:

Judy Perlman: judithfp@gmail.com

Marsha Gruen: gruenm@aol.com

Elaine Bercy: cyberbercy@aol.com

Study group leaders:

Have any news, pictures or updates to share?
Please email to: alvira@woman-only.com

STUDY GROUPS NEWS and UPDATES

We have some wonderful study groups forming. Please contact us to join:

On the 4th Sunday of the month enjoy a movie together and then dinner for discussion of the movie.

Want to go places and see new people? Join a women's on-the -town group.

To trace your family origins, join our Jewish Geneology group on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Follow the clues and solve the crime on the 3rd Friday morning with the Mystery Mavens.

Learn about Kabbalah on the 2nd Tuesday with Rabbi Lisa Bock .

Join a book group and widen your horizons.

For Men:

Come have lunch and listen to an interesting speaker.

Enjoy sports and like to share ideas? Join our sports talk group.

For Couples:

Our couples potpourri group will have new activities and interesting discussions.

For Singles:

Join once a month us for dinner and Friday night services.

Contact:

Judy Perlman Elaine Bercy judithp@gmail.com cyberbercy@aol.com

Marsha Gruen gruenm@aol.com

On Sunday, April 3, the couples **Happy Wanderers Study Group** went to the Colburn School Conservatory of Music Campus for a wonderful tour.

After lunch we went to CSUN Performing Arts Center for a performance of Colburn School Conservatory of Music Orchestra playing Beethoven's 9th Symphony. This was fabulous.

A big thank you to Jackie Olesker who arranged this for us.



NEWS & VIEWS - CONEJO VALLEY

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

When You're Ready to Buy or Refinance,

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According to Mortgage Executive Magazine's 2014 Top-200 list. 2. According to Corelogic, May 2015.





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AND TAX DEDUCTION

Please contact:

Jackie - jacjer@socal.rr.com (for the San Fernando Valley and Calabasas) and Renee - rsnh16@gmail.com (for Westlake, Thousand Oaks and Agoura)

to get \$25 gift cards.



Spring Speakers Event

SPRING EVENT— ONE OF THE BEST

Our Spring Speakers Event had a different appeal this year.

Held at the Agoura Hills' Event Center, a warm and lovely venue, three amazing speakers each provided meaningful presentations. Everyone was captivated when they heard Jeannie Smith's speech about her mother who hid Jews in a Nazi's basement. David Suissa delivered an emotional speech about the future of the Jewish people. Christopher Noxon had us laughing about his adventures with conversion.

The event was further enhanced with the delicious fare provided by Montrose Caterers.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Fall Luncheon and Boutique Monday October 10, 2016. Along with our boutique and silent auction, we will be entertained by Lesley Wohlman, who will be performing "The Great American Songbook".















NEWS & VIEWS - CONEJO VALLEY

OUR COMMUNITY



Email from Bill M.,

For the Troops organization,

I am overseas in a remote location that I cannot name for security purposes, and I received your Christmas care package today. I cannot tell you how heartwarming it is to know there are people like you who donate their time, talents, and money to make these care packages possible. Because of your thoughtfulness and generosity, I find it easier to continue doing my job over here and am proud to do it.

To all you GREAT AMERICANS, please accept my most sincere gratitude.

Very Respectfully,

Bill M."

Requested items of the week:

Please check our Troops Wish List here or on our website, www.ForTheTroops.org. WE NEED YOUR HELP. We are COM-PLETELY OUT OF LETTERS OF APPRECIATION FOR OUR CARE PACKAGES. Please help us with children's letters or any other letters of appreciation. We don't even 1 letter of appreciation to put in our boxes! Anything and everything helps. We can use almost anything on our list. Especially needed items are pre-sweetened powdered drink mixes and coffee (individual sizes), gum, deodorant, razors, small loofahs, and female personal care products. And we always can use tax-deductible* monetary donations to help us defray our monthly postage. Month postage runs nearly \$20,000.00!

* Tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Volunteers needed to help call on companies to donate items for our care packages. It can be fun and very rewarding. It can be done from your own home. If you are good at doing phone "soliciting," please contact Marianne at (805) 582-1637. We need donated items for our care packages.

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to volunteer with our boothing events, where we pass out our Troops Wish List to customers entering the grocery stores, please, please, email

Jackie Truger, JackieTruger@yahoo.com, or call her at (805) 990-1381. We have several boothing opportunities and they are for 2 hour shifts. Please help us with this. We need to fill up our cupboards so we can fill up our We Care packages and ship them to our War Fighters. That's what we are all about! Please contact Jackie if you can help. Thank you.

How you can help:

Amazon.com/Smile.Amazon.com: Do you shop online at Amazon? If you do then AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support *For The Troops* every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to *For The Troops*. Just go to smile.amazon.com and select For The Troops from the list of organizations then start shopping.

Ralph's: For The Troops is a registered nonprofit with Ralph's Grocery Stores. You must re-register every September 1st. After following the directions below, each time you shop at Ralph's and swipe your Ralph's card, a percentage of your purchase will be returned to FOR THE TROOPS® as a donation from Ralph's. Please sign up and use this easy and convenient way to contribute to For The Troops. Click here for details on how to register.

Thank you all for your support on behalf of our military! Your support is desperately needed and greatly appreciated! **As you know we are an ALL VOLUNTEER 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates solely by donation.** If you can help us, please we need your support. Anything and everything helps! To date, we have shipped off over 141,300 boxes! Help us reach our next goal of 200,000 boxes! Be a part of showing your appreciation and gratitude to America's Finest! Our military!

Thank you for your help! We couldn't do it without you.

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Directions: 101 Freeway to Moorpark Rd. Turn left to the 76 gas station.

Turn right onto Rolling Oaks Drive. Follow the driveway to the yellow building.

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Sunshine News

Our heartfelt condolences to:

Ruth Fritkin on the loss of her beloved husband.

Marsha Rosenblum, former Conejo Valley president on the loss of her beloved husband.

The family of Nina Fenster Smylie, dear former board member.



Get well wishes to:

Berniece Reed, Sharon Cohen, Carol Umlas and our Co-President, Nancy Minkow.

Congratulations graduates:

Wishing the best to Sharon and Herb Cohen's granddaughter, Melissa Regan from University of New Hampshire.

Congratulations to Bev Sklar's granddaughter Emily from Duke.

Best of luck to Nancy Minkow's granddaughter Ashley Minkow from the University of Mississippi.

Bright future to Marsha Rosenbaum's granddaughter Rachael who will be attending Northern Arizona University. Her grandson, Eli, is graduating from Simi Valley High.

Congratulations to Lois Block's granddaughter, Hannah DeWit from Tulane Univsity.

Congratulations Joyce and Bill Knell whose granddaughter, Samantha Goodnough who graduates from George Washington University and their grandson, Ryan Goodnough who graduates from Oak Park High School and will attend USC.

Co-President Sue Geiger's son Chris graduated from his four-year neurology residency and is accepting a fellowship in neuromuscular and interoperapive neurology.

Co-President Nancy Minkow's granddaughter Emily Minkow has passed her Boards and is now officially a Licensed Music Therapist.

Congratulations:

To our exceptional VP's of Study Groups: Elaine Bercy, Marsha Gruen, and Judy Feldman. Please check their important updates.

To Lila Klausner on Bar Mitzvah of grandson.

To Thelma Weltman, on Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter Camille.

To Deanna Morris on the June Wedding of granddaughter Jillian and the engagements of grandsons Andy and Brian.

To friends and family who celebrated Joyce Knell Special Birthday Party.

HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER!

Gertie Sanders, chairperson of the "Sunshine News" 805-230-1252 **gertiesanders@gmail.com**

We want to share your good news. It will give us a smile. We want to share your sad news, so we can give you our support. We want to hear about your adventure and your support for the community to share with our members.

BOOK FUND HAS TRIB-UTES FOR EVERY OCCASION

Brandeis Tributes are the perfect way to mark a special occasion or to simply remember someone. Your donations support a worthy cause since Book Fund money goes directly to the Brandeis Library to keep it up-to-date in all academic areas and continue all of its' services. Note: Your purchase of Book Fund Tributes is 100% tax deductible.

Send a Brandeis Tribute and spread warmth, kindness, caring, love, understanding and friendship. We promise same day service.

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Susan Uhler Ssand24K@aol.com

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For telephone orders call:

Susan: 805-241-1052

- ☐ \$10 Goldfarb Library at Night Card
- ☐ \$18 Louis Brandeis Portrait Card (Chai)
- ☐ \$35 LRJ with Newly Designed Inserts (red)
- ☐ \$55 Medical Science Journal Folio (blue)
- \$25 Sustaining the Mind Card

Tributes and Donations

Feb 1, 2016 to Apr 30, 2016

То	From	Message
Julian Fox	Elissa & Steve Lazarus	Get Well Soon
Marsha Rosenblum	BCV Board	Thinking of You & Prayers
Leah Cohen	Carol Smith	Mazel Tov - Grandson
Sam Goldberg	Carol Smith	Speedy Recovery
Nancy Minkow	Carol Smith	Speedy Recovery
Dina Klayman	Think Tank	Get Well Soon
Nancy Minkow	BCV Board	Speedy Recovery
Sam Goldberg	Helene & Frank Phillips	Speedy Recovery
Bev Sklar	Lois Bloch	In Sympathy
Stan Smylie	BCV Board	In Memory of Nina
Laura Benedon	BCV Board	In Memory of her husband
Laura Benedon	Helene & Carl Lustig	Condolences
Family of Nina Fenster Smylie	Helene & Carl Lustig	Condolences
Family of Nina Fenster	Elaine Blonder	In Sympathy
Smylie Lila Segal	BCV Board	In Memory of her sister











\$5.00 cards are back!

Brandeis National Committee Conejo Valley Chapter

1421 Dorset Ave

Thousand Oaks, CA91360





NEWS & VIEWS - CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER
WWW.BRANDEISCONEJO.ORG

CONEJO VALLEY CALENDAR

BOARD MEETINGS ARE THE 1ST THURS. OF THE MONTH - 10:00 AM

TEMPLE ETZ CHAIM (most months)
1080 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA

MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

MAY 08, 2016 MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 12, 2016 BOARD MEETING - 10:00 MAY 23, 2016 INSTALLATION - 10:00

JUNE 02, 2016 BOARD MEETING - 10:00

JUNE 19, 2016 FATHER'S DAY

MOVED?

We want to be sure you receive all the latest Chapter news.

Please notify us if you have moved or your telephone number or email address has changed.

Contact Madeline Ellis at 818-888-8216 or madelineellis@socal.rr.com



Any questions—contact: Kate Silverman (818) 889-2408 - Phone Tree Committee.