

News & Views - Conejo Chapter

www.BrandeisConejo.org

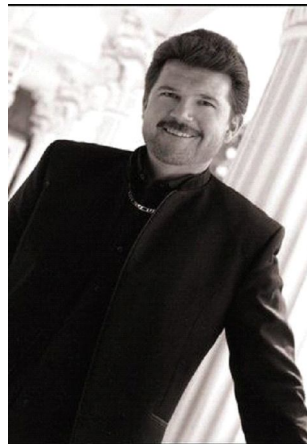
Welcome New Elected Board!

The Installation of Officers Luncheon will be held on
Wednesday, May 30th. 2012 at 10:30 a.m.

Los Robles Country Club
299 S Moorpark Rd.,
Thousand Oaks, CA
805-495-6421

Phil Birdsell will be joining US!

Download the invitation from our web site:
www.brandeisconejo.org (Click on: Latest News)
or contact Artheen at 818-996-3569



Inside this issue:

Presidium's Message Brandeis University History	2
Membership News	3
Study Group Calendar	4
Study Group Updates	5
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS	6-9
Tributes	10-11

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE WESTERN REGION BOARD



**CO-PRESIDENTS
SHARON COHEN & HONEY BENCOMO**

**TREASURER
BEVERLY HALPERN**

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
CAROLYN SAX**

**CHAPTER LIAISON
HELENE LUSTIG**



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.



A Message from Your CO-Presidents

Well, this is the last newsletter for the Conejo Valley Chapter for this year and we certainly have a great deal to consider. The Brandeis National Committee has put our money to such good use. On the National Level there have been so many advances in the medical research done at the University and so many scholarships have been funded. Libraries as providing the campus with what these students need and preserving books which time has ravaged. They have done so much.

On our chapter level our Membership Luncheon with Fritz Coleman was a booming success. Our Books n Brunch, with Lisa See, Rabbi Naomi Levy, and M.G. Lord, was not to be forgotten. Our small events and University on Wheels

were enjoyed by all. We met our Membership Goal and are well on the way to our Financial Goal. Our Study Groups have multiplied with many new groups and with amazing variety.

But our biggest successes are the ladies and gentlemen who are our members. Never have we encountered so many really nice people. We must thank all of you for making this year such a pleasure. You know it is always frightening to take on the role of Co-Presidents for another year but you all really helped to make it easy. So at the Installation Luncheon on May 30th we look forward to accepting the role for another year.

However, our Board's Installation is just one of the exciting installations for our chapter this year. We have a huge representation on the Western

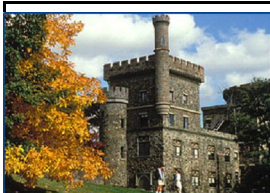


Marsha Rosenblum and Ellie Puls

Region Board. Honey Bencomo and Sharon Cohen will be the new Western Region Co-Presidents. Carolyn Sax will be

Communications Officer and Helene Lustig will be a Liaison Officer. Beverly Halpern will be Treasurer. Conejo Valley Chapter surely has outstanding members. Thank you so much.

Ellie Puls and Marsha Rosenblum



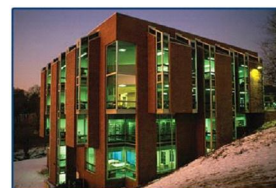
Brandeis National Committee History

Located in Waltham, Massachusetts, Brandeis University is ranked in the top tier of universities in the country.

Founded in 1948 and named for the late Justice Louis Dembitz Brandeis of the U.S. Supreme Court, it is the only nonsectarian, Jewish-founded university in the country, known for its academic excellence and ideals of social justice. At the same time as Brandeis founding, eight women from Boston,

all leaders in the community, were asked to help in supporting this new university. They were given the task of building on the collection of 2,000 books in the Library, which was housed in a converted horse stable. The dedication and perseverance of these women, who now called themselves the National Women's Committee continues today, sixty-one years later, as the Brandeis National Committee. With over 70 chapters nationwide and over 39,000 members, BNC is one of the largest and most successful "friends of a library organizations in the world. Over the years, we have placed over one million books in the Brandeis libraries, and raised over \$100 million for Brandeis University and its libraries, scholarships and research. Brandeis University has become one of the youngest private research universities, with ground-breaking exploration in neurodegenerative and age-related diseases.

Our Conejo Valley Chapter is proud to be a part of this wonderful endeavor. The funds we raise from our events and study groups help to support the development and expansion of Brandeis's Libraries. They are able to purchase books and research journals, restore and preserve books and film, develop information technology, and hire student work assistants. While most of us did not attend Brandeis University or have never visited, we are dedicated supporters to a university that prides itself in bringing together many people of different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds.



www.brandeis.edu/nw



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Membership Happening: New Member Coffee

New and prospective member coffees are held at least twice a year. The most recent coffee was held April 30th at the lovely home of Elaine Blonder. There were thirteen guests, including two husbands, reflecting the increasing number of male members. As we went around the room, everyone had the opportunity to tell something about themselves and found much in common.

After introductions, we enjoyed presentations by our enthusiastic board members on Events and Fundraising, the History of Brandeis University, and the Conejo Valley Chapter. We learned how Brandeis helps our community, and our Tributes are the perfect way to remember someone. We listened as our Study Group Vice President described current and future study groups. Everyone was very friendly, and the morning was a huge success. Some had joined prior to the meeting or signed up on the spot.

We want to welcome the following new members into our chapter and remember if you know someone who is not enjoying life as much as we are, give me that person's name.

Membership V.P. Bobbi Albert 805-480-1846 teacherba@aol.com

Welcome New Members...

Marty Arnstein
Jenny and David Bern
Frank Bonoff
Laurie Dix
Maryann and Rick Forman
Stevi Goetz
Michael Gollub
Gil Greenbaum
Gabby Gross
Ronald Hartman
Nancy Honigsberg
Israel Klain
Sandra and Don Loundy
Janis and Alan Margolis
Barbara Minkoff
Rochelle Nathan
Tammy Rubin
Robert Tanowitz
Arleen Vaneigort
Pam Veselak
Robert Wolenik

Sandra Shniderson
Cheryl Stuback
Karen Zerlin



**STUDY GROUPS NEWS and UPDATES:****STUDY GROUP REPORT - Beverly Sklar, Nancy Minkow, Carol Smith:**

A new daytime **Ethnic Dining** group is just getting started. We meet on the third Thursday and are still open to new members. Here is your opportunity to travel the world without leaving Los Angeles. We would also like to start a Couples Game Night. They would meet on a Sat or Sun evening and play different types of board games, cards or whatever they decide.

If you are interested contact Carol Smith at 818-716-0887

**Brandeis Mens Current Affairs**

Discussion Group now open for new participants. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 9AM, at Denny's, 50 East Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks.

To inquire further contact Marvin Karelitz, 818-222-8461 or E-mail mbk1934@sbcglobal.net



The following groups have openings at this time and would welcome new members interested in joining their groups:

1. Men's Current Events,
2. Women's Issues and
3. Women's Current Events.

Anyone interested please contact Nancy Minkow, Director of Study Groups at NVMLCSW@aol.com or call 805-496-6113.

**HOT MOMMA MAHJERS STUDY GROUP**

On a beautiful, sunny Monday, the Hot Momma Mahjers spent the afternoon at High Tea at Anderson's restaurant in Santa Barbara. The food was great and the desserts were outrageous!! Everyone came home full and with a goodie box of leftovers. Seated at the bountiful table (left to right) Carolyn Sax, Helene Lustig, Sharon Cohen and Sheila Anderson.



Ethnic Dining at Thai Restaurant



Divas at Skirball

Study group leaders:

Have any news, pictures, stories or updates to share?

Please email to:

Alvira -

alvira@woman-only.com



THE FOLLOWING IS A SHORT SYNOPSIS OF EXISTING CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER STUDY GROUPS

THE ART WORLD: Antiques: Go to Antiques shops to find that hidden treasure.

Gallery Girls & Guys: View art in different galleries or private collections in homes.

BOOK GROUPS: A new book is chosen each month to read for discussion. Members bring thought provokeing insight's into the dialogue as they review it. Available for men or women.

BRIDGE

Couples Bridge: Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month in member's homes.

Limited to 3 tables because of home size. We play duplicate from about 7:00 to 10:00 and then enjoy a nosh and conversation afterward.

Ladies Bridge: One group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday and the other group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at member's homes. We play party bridge and usually have 2 tables.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: "Reach out and touch someone" Help by volunteering in the community.

EDIE DELLORCO: edellorco1@yahoo.com—805-777-1704

CURRENT EVENTS: Ladies Groups and Men's Group: Discusses current events from international, national, and local news.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Life and Times: We discuss various topics of current and historical interest. Each member takes a turn leading the discussion and presenting the topic.

Women's Life's Issues: Discusses today's ethics, morals and behavior patterns, past and present feelings.

Women's Awareness: The hostess for the month prepares and presents any topic she chooses for discussion.

Woman in Transition and Can We Talk: Offers a safe place for sharing confidence's with each other.

Women of a Certain Age: is a psychodrama group that uses commitment, co-operation, gentle communication, and having a great time together as it's focus.

Men's Open Forum: Discusses men's issues in a safe and supportive environment where nothing is taboo and confidentiality vital.

ETHNIC DINING: Visiting different ethnic restaurants for lunch or dinner and learning about their countries, cultures and food. Eat your way through the world!

GAMES: MAH JONG/CANASTA/MEXICAN TRAIN

JEWISH GENEALOGY: Trace your family roots

LADIES OF LEISURE: Women that are living on their own meet for dinner, discussion and various excursions.

LEGAL PUZZLERS: Discussion of current legal issues. We become the best of what a Jury should be.



BRANDEIS NEWS and UPDATES



Planned Gifts... Your Legacy. Their future.

Establish a charitable gift annuity at Brandeis, and secure a fixed income for life at attractive rates, while supporting students at the country's outstanding liberal arts college and research university. Today's Brandeis students will become tomorrow's enlightened leaders.

When you fund a gift annuity with cash or appreciated securities, you will receive:

- Guaranteed fixed income for life for one or two people
- A payout rate often higher than CDs and other fixed-income investments
- A charitable income-tax deduction

For more information on charitable gift annuities and bequests and creating your legacy at Brandeis, contact Janice Fineman, Executive Director at fineman@brandeis.edu or call 888-862-8692.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY SAN DIEGO ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Brandeis University has a Western Regional Office of Undergraduate Admissions located in San Diego. Martin Vaughn is the Associate Director charged with managing all student recruitment activities in the Western States. He will be pleased to talk with BNC members, their family or friends about Brandeis admissions. Martin can be contacted at mvaughn@brandeis.edu

News And Views Staff

Editor In Chief: Alvira K.
(alvira@woman-only.com)

Copy Editor: Rita W.
(bobreet@aol.com)

CIO report

Brandeis Pre-Med Track Has Long, Successful History

Brandeis students have long traveled the road from liberal arts to the field of medicine. "Brandeis students come here because of our rigorous science program and our success in preparing students for medical school," says Judith Hudson, director of pre-health advising. "Since medical schools also look for well-rounded applicants, our students are very appealing because they have demonstrated a commitment to community service and the experimental learning that comes from clinical volunteering.

About 100 students a year apply to health professions schools, including dental and veterinary programs. Many Brandeis graduates now working in medical fields attribute their success to basic science research. Robert Friedlander, Class of '87 and now a professor and chairman of neurosurgery at the University of Pittsburgh, says, "If you have the right research mentor and advisors, you learn what's an important question, how to ask it, how to develop the experiment to answer the question and how to make sure that you have the right controls to get the right answers.

"Dean of Arts and Sciences Susan Birren says, "Having lab experience has not only prepared students for medical school, but informed them what their goals were and how to achieve them...that is one of the advantages of the basic science education, particularly the opportunity to work in a basic science laboratory.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Service - "We Make a Difference"

Thank you to all our generous members who donate each month to all our charities, you do make a "Big Difference".

Shalach Monet gifts were given to Residents at Belmont Village Retirement Home, for Purim.
Nancy Minkow and granddaughter Hannah did a wonderful Mitzvah project, several years ago. Children do learn by example.

For our generosity and dedication we have received many Thank You Notes.

From:

Fire Station 31- for over 150 Toys for Tots

MANNA - for Tons of Food and other items

RAIN - for toiletries, clothes, baby items and many more needed items

Our Troops and McDonald's - for the tabs

These messages of appreciation should touch our hearts as we are a caring chapter.

We still need everything, plus gently used clothes, and soda can tabs, they are melted down for the Zinc.
If you have fruit trees and want to donate the fruit, please e-mail Marilyn at: mbolnick@aol.com

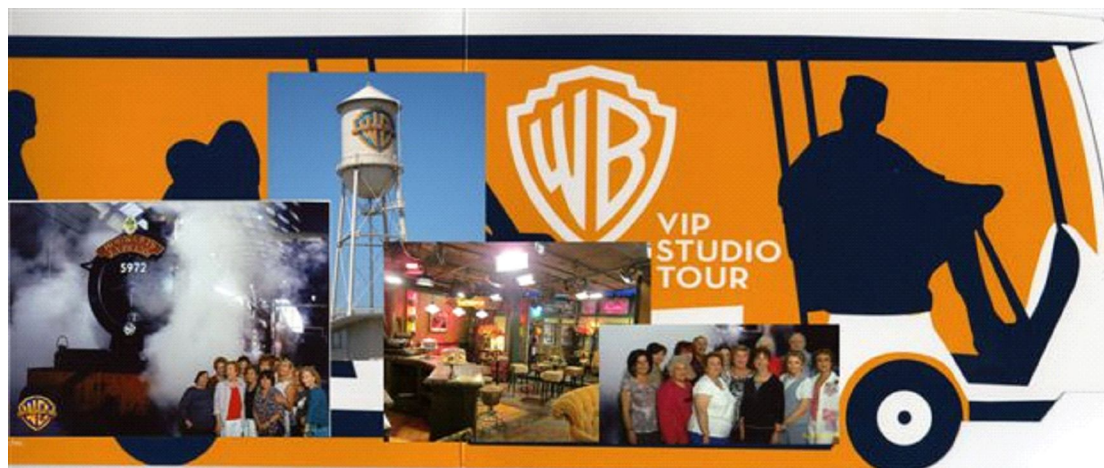
Green News: You can take used batteries to any Library.

Water bottles leach harmful chemicals!

For any info and for pickup, please call: Edith Dellorco 805-777-1704 or Gertie Sanders 805-230-1252 .

CALLING ALL LADIES OF LEISURE - JOIN OUR NEW STUDY GROUP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SINGLE LADIES WHO WANT TO ENJOY THEMSELVES BECOME A CHARTER MEMBER SO YOU CAN DECIDE OUR FOCUS. CALL NANCY MINKOW 818-884-8569



**DAYTIME
DIVAS**

on
**WARNER BROS
STUDIO TOUR**
in
Burbank



BOOKS 'N BRUNCH

Our sixth annual Books 'n Brunch was held on Wednesday, March 28th at our favorite venue, North Ranch Country Club.

Among the nearly 200 guests, we were honored to host BNC Past National Vice President, Laura Benedon, Western Region Co-President Sue Karp from the Phoenix Chapter and Western Region Co-President Phyllis Perkal from the San Dieguito Chapter. In fact, our Books 'n Brunch has enjoyed such a good reputation that we had several book clubs in the community attend as groups.

In addition to a fabulous buffet brunch, we were thoroughly entertained by three wonderful authors.

M. J. Lord, author of *The Accidental Feminist*, *How Elizabeth Taylor Raised our Consciousness* and *We Were Too Distracted By Her Beauty to Notice*, showed film clips from some of Ms Taylor's movies in which she introduced us to feminist ideas and really influenced our thinking about women's roles in society. It was a thoroughly entertaining presentation. (Ms Lord filled in for author Cara Black who was unable to appear due to illness.)

Rabbi Naomi Levy gave a most inspirational speech relating to her book, *Hope Will Find You*, as she related the events surrounding her young daughter's illness and described with humor and honesty how she came through a time of uncertainty and fear and learned how to stop waiting for life to begin. Her message was most thought-provoking and had meaning for many of us.

Best-selling author Lisa See made her second appearance before our membership (she first appeared at our Membership Luncheon in 2005) and drew a parallel between the characters in her books, *Shanghai Girls* and *Dreams of Joy* and the relationships between mothers and daughters both past and present. For those of us whose daughters were in attendance, Ms See's presentation had special meaning.

We all had fun with a naming contest in which Sheila Anderson won the right to have a character named for her in an upcoming mystery novel by author Cara Black (more on this in a future newsletter). Everyone also stocked up on gift certificates to Brent's Deli with a portion of the proceeds returning to the chapter.

Not only did we all enjoy ourselves immensely, but the day was a huge success financially. We raised 45% more for Brandeis' Sustaining the Mind Fund than we raised the previous year. A special thanks to everyone on the Fundraising Committee and all our chapter volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success.

You won't want to miss the Fall Boutique and Membership Luncheon on September 11, 2012 again at North Ranch Country Club. Plans are currently underway.

The used books we had collected and wrapped as centerpieces were donated to the Soldier's Angels Foundation, a volunteer, non-profit organization that assists veterans, wounded and deployed service personnel and their families.

"It is the policy of Brandeis University, the Brandeis National Committee, and the Conejo Valley Chapter that membership lists and event registration lists may not be shared with other organizations. They are the property of the Conejo Valley Chapter. In order to insure the privacy of each individual, our members may not use our lists for any purpose other than that for which they were created."



Pictures From Books 'N Brunch:



3 generations Lila with her Daughter and Granddaughter



**TRIBUTES 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 Libraries to purchase books and scholarly research journals in all academic areas. Note: Your purchase of Book Fund Tributes is 100% tax deductible. Send a Brandeis Tribute and spread warmth, kindness, caring, love, understanding and friendship. It is easier and more meaningful to have tribute cards sent out by Brandeis rather than Hallmark.

Contact either one of us to send out your tribute. Tell us who you want it to go to, their address, for what occasion, if there is anything special you want to say and who to sign it from. Please send a check when you order your card to whomever you ordered it from. There are cards available at \$5, \$10, \$18 and above. You can also buy your own supply of tributes from us to keep on hand at home to send out whenever the occasion arises.

CHAPTER TRIBUTES

<u>From</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>MESSAGE</u>
Antique Browsers	Don Sacks	Get Well
Cinema Gals	Don Sacks	Get Well
Cinema Gals	Bernie Pollack	Get Well
Law & Disorder	Kathy Bernstein	Get Well
Judy Bodner	Joan Spitz	Get Well
Arlene Leibowitz	Harvey Carl	In Memory of Wife
Bonnie Gould	Kate Silverman	In Memory of Son-In-Law
Judy Bodner	Harvey & Ryan Carl	Loss of wife and mother
Marsha and Bob Rosenblum	Marcia Schneider	Loss of husband
Lila Klausmer	Sharon Cohen	Mazel Tov
Lila Klausmer	Beverly Halpern	Mazel Tov
Elyse Rose	Sharon Cohen	Mazel Tov
Terri Schiffer	Norma Silberberg	Happy Birthday

**Sunshine News**

I am Gertie Sanders, chairperson of the new committee, "Sunshine News".

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.

Please send information to: Gertie Sanders, 805-230-1252— gertiesanders@gmail.com

**BOOK FUND HAS TRIBUTES 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.

TRIBUTE/BOOK FUND VP	Lila Segal	(805) 375-3145	newhiplila@roadrunner.com
TRIBUTE/BOOK FUND VP	Helaine Portnoy	805-496-0903	helpor32@yahoo.com

Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. — Barbara Tuchman

BOOK FUND TRIBUTE — MAIL ORDER FORM

Complete this form and mail it with your check to:

Helaine Portnoy

883 Hartglen Ave. Westlake Village, CA 91361

For telephone orders call:

Lila 805-375-3145 or Helaine 805-496-0903

Note: Orders must be accompanied by a check.

Use a separate form for each tribute.

Forms may be photocopied.

- ☐ \$5 Blue & White Tribute Card
- ☐ \$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)
- ☐ Other Major Donations

Send Tribute to:

NAME (please print): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: STATE: ZIP: _____

Send Tribute From:

NAME PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: STATE: ZIP: _____

CHECK ONE:





Brandeis University National
Women's Committee
Conejo Valley Chapter
2173 Hillsbury Rd.
Westlake Village, CA 91361

Place
USPS
Stamp
Here

Inside — Brandeis University Updates, CO-Presidents letter, Announcements,
Photos from Books 'N Brunch, Study Group News, Membership, Tributes,
Brandeis Calendar May—July 2012



CONEJO VALLEY CALENDAR

BOARD MEETINGS ARE THE 1ST THURS.
OF THE MONTH - 10:00 AM
Thousand Oaks library
1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA

MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

May 27, 2012	Shavuot
May 28, 2012	Memorial Day
May 30, 2012	INSTALLATION
June 7, 2012	Board Meeting - 10 a.m.
June 17, 2012	Father's Day
July 4, 2012	Independence day
July 5, 2012	Board Meeting - 10 a.m.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE EMAIL . . .

We want to be sure that you receive all of the information about all the activities that our chapter has to offer. Much of our communication is sent via email because it is fast and saves postage. If you do not use email, or if you do not have a computer use THE BUDDY system—call a person in your group who does have a computer to keep up to date.

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

**Check our website on a
regular basis for the
latest updates.**

www.BrandeisConejo.org