

News & Views - Conejo Valley Chapter

SPRING SPEAKER EVENT

Thursday, May 11, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

North Ranch Country Club

4761 Valley Spring Drive - Westlake CA

We Proudly Present



Sandy Banks was a longtime columnist for the Los Angeles Times. She was the paper's only black columnist and wrote about her experience of raising three African-American daughters as a single mother. Sandy focused on private lives, public policy and people who inspire and infuriate us. She lives in Northridge. Sandy left the Times in 2015.



Michael Hiltzik is a columnist and reporter for the Los Angeles Times. In 1999 he won a Pulitzer Prize for co-writing an article about corruption in the music industry. He has served as a financial and political writer, investigative reporter, technology writer and editor, and a foreign correspondent in Africa and Russia.



Elex Michaelson is a Political Director and an investigative reporter for ABC. He is the winner of 5 Emmy Awards and 11 nominations. He co-founded "Get Hands On", a breast cancer awareness campaign. Alex graduated from Agoura High School and was first in his class at the Annenberg School for Journalism at USC.

For more details please visit our web site and to download your invitations: www.BrandeisConejo.org

Questions? Contact MAJOR EVENTS VP Barbara Polisky - 818-991-2667

Letter from Your Co-Presidents

In our first Presidents' message in the August-September Newsletter, 2015, we introduced ourselves as your new Co-Presidents. We expressed our gratitude for the wonderful support we had received from our Board and the membership at large and stressed the belief that team building is the key to success in any organization. With that goal in mind, we have worked hard to develop committees, partnerships and relationships between and among our Board members and the members of this Chapter and other Chapters. We share ideas, support each other's events, collaborate and extend the reach of Brandeis into our Community and beyond.



Over the past two years we have tried new things, some were more successful than others, always being open to the creative minds of others, striving to make a difference and always wanting to make you proud. Coming in to this position as Co-Presidents, a job neither of us had ever held before, we were excited, nervous, overwhelmed and extremely honored. We both feel we have grown as individuals, as a team and as leaders during our Presidency. It is an experience we recommend to those of you who love this Chapter and want to participate in its continued growth and development.

We have presided over a membership that has grown to over 600 members, with a portfolio of study groups that number 88 and counting, seeing our demographics including more and more men. Our events, large and small, have been more varied and more exciting than ever and will continue to be a source of our mission of philanthropy.

All in all, Sue and I are grateful to have had this wonderful opportunity to be part of the team that has served you over the past two years, and we thank you for your support and encourage more of you to get involved and be part of the experience of leading this terrific Chapter.



Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

Your Co-Presidents:

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





Philanthropy. Learning. Community.

IN SUPPORT OF BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Brandeis University policy for sharing names

"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."



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.

CHANUKKAH 2016

Holiday Program with select members of the Los Angeles Symphonic Winds and Maestro Stephen Piazza discussing, demonstrating, and performing music for symphonic wind band and woodwind quintet with a special emphasis on holiday music .



UNIVERSITY ON WHEELS 2017 Brandeis University Senior Lecturer Jennifer A. Cleary

talking about "Theater for Social Change"



In a light blue shirt, with Jennifer Cleary and our own Frona and Jessie, is our student ambassador **Liana Moss**. She is a senior at Brandeis University and she graduates in May





BRANDEIS NATIONAL COMMITTEE – CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER PRESENTS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES TO SERVE ON THE 2017-2018 BOARD

Election to be held at our Annual Meeting on May 11, 2017 (All current members of the Conejo Valley Chapter are eligible to vote)

Co-Presidents

Elaine Bercy	Judy Perlman
Vice Presidents	
Membership: Elaine Leff	Major Events: Nancy Minkow
Major Events: Sue Geiger	Leadership Development: Carol Smith
Study Groups: Honey Bencomo	Study Groups: Ellie Puls
Study Groups: Beverly Sklar	Tributes: Renee Spero
Fundraising: <i>OPEN</i>	

Officers

Membership Registrar: Madeline Ellis	CIO: Marion Abelson	
Recording Secretary: OPEN	Parliamentarian: Sharon Cohen	
Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Billone	Treasurer: Susan Barnett	

Directors

Computer Services: Susan Uhler	Study Group Registrar: Judy Rosenberg
Co-Director, Small Events: Frona DeCovnick	Co-Director, Small Events: Jessie Pearlman*
Community Service: Gertie Sanders*	Historian: Helene Lustig
Study Group Registrar: Timmie High*	Affliate Members: Marsha Goldin*
Study Group Registrar: Jenna Katz*	Re-enrollment: OPEN

Committee Chairs

Webmaster: Alvira Klain*	Sunshine/Event Hospitality: Gertie Sanders*	
	Decorations: Marsha Goldin*	
Publicity: Rita Zarrell*	Installation: Judy Elkins*	

Nominating Committee

OPEN	OPEN
OPEN	OPEN
OPEN	OPEN
OPEN	OPEN (Alternate)

Respectfully Submitted by the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee: Gertie Sanders, Helene Phillips, Sharon Billone

The Nominating Committee has met and we have filled most positions on the 2016-2017 Board; however, there are still several positions open - along with positions on the Nominating Committee for next year.

The chapter would appreciate your involvement and participation. If you are available and willing to volunteer for any of these positions, please contact Gertie Sanders at gertiesanders@gmail.com or by phone at 805-230-1252



*We wish to gratefully acknowledge Directors and Committee Chairs who continue to serve in positions for which they were previously elected or appointed.

Frona DeCovnick & Jessie Pearlman - Co-Directors Special Events, Susan Uhler – Computer Specialist (Director), Renee Spero – Director Tributes, Timmie High & Jenna Katz - Study Group Registrars, Marsha Goldin – Affiliate Members & Decorations Chair, Alvira Klain – Webmaster & Newsletter Designer, Rita Zarrell – Publicity Chair, Judy Elkins – Installation Chair





STUDY GROUP UPDATES - April 2017

Contact Marsha Gruen at gruenm@aol.com if interested in those groups:

- ~~ Men's Movie Group A new movie group for men has been requested. As soon as we have enough men interested, we will schedule an organizational meeting to start the group.
- ~~ The Cinemaddicts Film group is open to new members. The group meets the second Thursday at 1:30 at University Village. The members see the chosen movie on their own and then come together for an in-depth discussion.
- ~~ Les Sunday Cinema, a couples movie group, meets the 3rd Sunday at 4:00 and is looking for one couple to add.
- ~~ Women in the Know current events group, meeting the 2nd Tuesday at 1:00 pm would gladly add 2 or 3 new members.
- ~~ Couples "Hot Topics" meets the 3rd Wednesday at 9:30 AM.
- ~~ Legal Puzzlers group would welcome new members. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 4:00.
- ~~ INDEPENDENT THINKERS: We are in the process of starting a new study group that would concentrate on world affairs and be bi-partisan. A group for independent thinkers who are open to hearing another point of view, and are willing to set emotions and political biases aside.
- ~~ Newsy Girls is a CURRENT EVENTS group looking for more members to add to our engaging discussions expressing a diversity of opinions. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 10 AM.

Contact Elaine Bercy at cyberbercy@aol.com if interested in those groups:

- ~~ Do you love taking photos? Join our photography group!
- ~~ Would you like to read and discuss interesting books? BOOK ENDS meets on the 4th Monday at noon.
- ~~ The Mystic Mavens Kabbalah group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1-2 PM. Join us for interesting and lively discussions.
- ~~ Join us to discuss or question the Existence of God. The Divine meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month 1-3 PM.

Contact Judy Perlman at judithfp@gmail.com if interested in those groups:

- ~~ If you are interested in starting an "investment group", contact judithfp@gmail.com. Content, format and time to be determined by the group.
- ~~ An evening Ethnic dining group didn't fly. If anyone is interested in a daytime group (we do have a few names) we can start one soon.
- ~~ Want to have a delicious lunch with a fun group at Rustico and enjoy a guest speaker once a month? Dine and Discover meets the 4th Wednesday of the month from noon-2PM.
- ~~ A couples group (4th Sunday) and a women's On the Town group have a few openings.
- ~~ A few people have expressed interest reading and discussing HOMER? Contact judithfp@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



Hi Everyone:

This has been a very exciting past few months again. Let's begin with the successful orientation coffee we had this month. The new members who attended learned a great deal about how Brandeis and our particular chapter function. They got a head start on applying for the study groups that they are interested in and became aware of many study groups that they did not even know existed. Since we have almost 100 of them, it is hard to learn about them all. If you are interested in attending the next coffee, email me and I will be sure you are on the list. norm0020@yahoo.com

It now is spring again and one of the good things about that is: It is now time for our special membership deal. If you have not been a member in the last two years, you may send a check to join and you will be a member for April, May, and June, in addition to all of the next year. Again, this is another way to get a head start on study groups. Tell

all your friends who want to get as much out of Conejo Valley Chapter as you do: **Now is the time.** Don't forget the guys, too.

We also want to give a big welcome to the members who joined since our last newsletter.

Mimi Branch Carol Shycoff Ila Dane
Karen Mariglia Victor Rose Ethel Rosen
Janine Quint Saul Ovat Charles Peven

Welcome Our New Members!

Ellie Puls Membership V.P. 818-889-5555 norm0020@yahoo.com







STUDY GROUPS NEWS and UPDATES:



STUDY GROUP REPORT

The VP Study Group Committee met in January and February. The group was thrilled to receive the news that we have expanded our reach to include interested and interesting people who live at Leisure Village Camarillo. There were 18 people who attended the first meeting and two potential study groups will be started there. The Board thanks Elaine Bercy, Susan Barnett and Lila Segal for the successful meeting.

Amazing but true, the three VPs have started 15 new groups over the past 6 months. Look at this: Hebrew Language, Holiday Celebrations, Living Single Potpourri, Healthy Living Discussion Group, Kabbalah, Mystery Book Club,

A new Women's Discussion Group, Critical Thinking, a new On the Town group, Creative Writing, Men's Sport

Who knows what could be next?

On another topic: There are upcoming vacancies in the Board, so if you know of someone or if YOU might be interested in helping, learning, and being involved, please tell a Board member.

Business: Reminder that \$15 checks are due by the second meeting for new groups, not including the Org meeting.

A policy decision: Regarding a person in a group who can attend intermittently because of another conflict: the group itself can decide whether to allow that person to remain in the group. If there are those that take advantage of the policy, it would be dealt with within the group.

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



Feb. 16, 2017, twenty-seven members of the Divas on the Town Study Group went to Simi Valley to help pack boxes at the For the Troops facility 5th years in a raw!

They pack boxes and brought much needed supplies for our brave men and women who are serving in Afghanistan. Our group is encouraged to select this event each year at our planning meeting by our leader Laraine Karelitz. The members of For The Troops look forward to seeing Brandeis Conejo Valley - Divas each year.



Hot Mamma Mahjers Study Group



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandeis April, 2017 CIO Report by Shelly Wasserman Chapter Information Officer

INTERESTING FACTS FROM BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

BNC OFFERS 15-MONTH MEMBERSHIP! IT'S A GREAT TIME TO TELL A FRIEND

There is still time to sign up and enjoy BNC's 15-month membership. Starts April 1 through June 30, 2018. This is for new members only who will be joining in April, May and June and does not include any months prior. For more details contact our Membership V.P. Ellie Puls 818-889-5555 norm0020@yahoo.com

A CONVERSATION WITH ANITA HILL

Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch's philosophy of constitutional originalism makes him likely to view protection of rights narrowly, Hill says... Read the whole interview on Brandeis edu/now the web site or copy the link below to your

browser: http://www.brandeis.edu/now/2017/February/hill-nominee-

gorsuch.html

A Q&A WITH BRANDEIS' FIRST CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER MARK BRIMHALL-VARGAS

Brandeis' first chief diversity officer talks about diversity, equity and inclusion on campus—read more on the web site.

http://www.brandeis.edu/now/2017/February/brimhall-vargasqa.html

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The only title in our democracy superior to that of President is the title of citizen." Louis D. Brandeis

SAVE THE DATES:

MONDAY, June 19 2017 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND OUR CHAPTERS

Information to follow.





PASSOVER IS COMING

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BRENT'S GIVES BRANDEIS CONEJO VALLEY A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION WE ALL EAT OUT OFTEN AND AT BRENT'S MORE OFTEN SO GET YOUR MEAL, DONATION, 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)

HELP NEEDED

Seeking Volunteers for **Social Justice Project**

BNC-Conejo joins Alzheimer's of Greater Los Angeles in support of their "Walk 4 Alz" to be held on Saturday, June 24, 2017

For more information and/or to volunteer contact: Frona DeCovnick

818-883-1247 kidzathart@aol.com

Or Carol Smith 818-716-0887 carolovestan@gmail.com



Brandeis National Committee

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IN SUPPORT OF BRANDEIS UNIVERS





"Sustaining the Mind"

Join the Brandeis National Committee's "<u>Sustaining</u> the Mind: Scientific Research and Scholarships" 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



OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

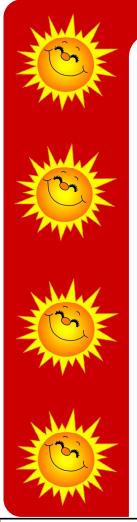
BOARD MEETINGS ARE
THE 1ST THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH - 10:00 AM
TEMPLE ETZ CHAIM
(most months)
1080 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA

or Thousand Oaks Library 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Please call Nancy Minkow 818-730-8797 or Sue Geiger 805-587-8550 to verify time and place

All members are welcome.

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Sunshine News

CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY:

Barbara Fink on the loss of her Sister In -Law.

Janet Fink. Diane Goldstein on loss of her Sister In-Law.

Honey Bencomo on loss of her Sister In-Law Nora Engle.

GET WELL WISHES and HEALING:

Barbara Polisky, Norm Minkow, Sherry Weisman, Sheila Clapkin and Gail Small.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Elaine Blonder on her Grandson Connor becoming a BAR MITZVAH and Granddaughter Kira Hyman was elected ASB Senior President at Agoura High School.

Cheryl Stuback on the Graduation of her Grandson from the University of Arizona.

Gertie Sanders on the Graduation of her Twin Granddaughter's Graduation from NYU and Loyola Marymount University.

Carl on celebrating a SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Gertie Sanders, chairperson of the "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

Brandeis Conejo Community Social Justice / Committee Service
Our Community Service Committee believes
that you will "Empower Yourself" by Giving Back.

Our members have been busy these last few months bringing joy to those less fortunate.

Thank you

Judi Bodner, Sherry Weisman and Susan Uhler for collecting toiletries for the homeless families.

Marilyn Bolnick for delivering newspaper comics to "For Our Troops" at their distribution center (these were collected by Our Board Members).

Everyone who donated toiletries, soda can tabs for Ronald McDonald House; fresh produce from their home garden to be picked - up by "FOR FOOD FORWARD" and delivered to those in need.

Please let me know if you can donate fruit or vegetables.

Food for SOVA FOOD BANK is always needed.

For many of us it was a joy to be with children, mothers, fathers and grandparents as we wrote cards and filled individual personal care bags in support of MEASURE-H, Care for the Homeless.

Our members were out in force to support The Women's March held in Los Angeles and Ventura.

We attendant the program for The David Labkovsky (an artist whose paintings are used in classrooms teaching students about Jewish History) Project was inspirational.

Please let us know if you did anything for the community, we would like to acknowledge our members involvement to make this community a better place for ALL.

Enjoy a Healthy delicious Passover and Celebrations of Spring and Easter

Please e-mail me for any information for volunteering opportunities, donating and for pick-ups.

Gertie - 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 as check is received.

TRIBUTES VP

Renee Spero - rsnh16@gmail.com

Mail your order with your check to:

Renee Spero 2663 Lakewood Place Westlake Village Ca. 91361

For telephone orders call:

Renee: 805 374-9660

☐ \$5 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)

\$25 Sustaining the Mind Card

Tributes and Donations

Newsletter Tributes & Donations 12/01/16 to 3/31/2017

То	From	Message
Elaine Bercy Elaine Bercy Elaine Bercy Elaine Bercy	Bobbie Albert Conejo Valley Board Carol Smith Ivrit - Hebrew Study Grp.	Recovery from hip surgery Speedy recovery from surgery Speedy Recovery from surgery Speedy recovery from surgery
Carl Lustig	Sharon Cohen	Happy 80 th birthday
Gertie Sanders	Lillian Garner	Wishing you the best
Gertie Sanders Gertie Sanders	Daytime Trotters Renee Spero	Get well fast Get well fast
Gertie Sanders Norman Minkow Marsha Goldin Norman Minkow Norman Minkow Barbara Polisky Barbara Polisky Marsha Goldin	Conejo Valley Board Gertie Sanders Gertie Sanders Carol Smith Bonnie Gould Carol Smith Conejo Valley Board Conejo Valley Board	Speedy Recovery
Naomi Javitz Barbara Weinberg Honey Bencomo Bea Shaffer Bernie Schneier Binnie Nadler	Bonnie Gould Monday News S.Grp. Conejo Valley Board Phyliss Seidman Phyliss Seidman Sue Geiger	In memory of Marty In memory of your husband Tom In Memory of your sister-in-law In memory of Sam Shaffer In memory of Rehla Schneier In memory of your husband Marv
Linda Washer Stan/Fran DeCovnick	Antique Browsers & Cinema Girls St. Grp. Speedy Recovery Rosalie Bell, Carol Roseman, Maureen Gold In memory of Stan's brother Harvey	



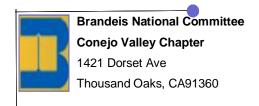








\$14.00 for four note cards





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CONEJO VALLEY CALENDAR

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

TEMPLE ETZ CHAIM (most times, please check) MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

APRIL 06, 2017 BOARD MEETING - 10:00

APRIL 10, 2017 PASSOVER APRIL 16, 2017 EASTER

APRIL 23, 2017 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

APRIL 27, 2017 Raffia Shopping Day

(for more information go to our web site

MAY 04, 2017 BOARD MEETING - 10:00

MAY 11, 2017 SPRING SPEAKER EVENT/BOARD ELECTIONS

MAY 29, 2017 MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 01, 2017 BOARD MEETING - 10:00

JUNE 19, 2017 INSTALLATION

JULY 04, 2017 INDEPENDANCE DAY JULY 06, 2017 BOARD MEETING - 10:00

AUGUST 03, 2017 BOARD MEETING - 10:00

AUGUST 17, 2017 GAME 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



Check our web site for all the updates on a regular basis!

www.BrandeisConejo.org