



News & Views Conejo Valley Chapter

Volume 4 Issue 1
Summer 2008

"BRANDEIS GOES BROADWAY!!"



Please join us for our 3rd Annual Membership Luncheon and Boutique on Tuesday, September 23rd at 10:00am at North Ranch Country Club when "Brandeis Goes Broadway".

Our exciting program features Cantor Ron Li Paz, Bronwen Li Paz and the Second Stage Dance Company in a performance that you will NOT want to miss. Ron is the Cantor and spiritual leader at Valley Outreach Synagogue. He also has sung in many major concert halls and opera houses. Recently Ron starred in a revival of "One Touch of



Venus" in London's West End and was a concert soloist at the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

There will be a fantastic Boutique for you to shop with wonderful items you will not be able to resist! This day will be your first chance to sign up for Study Groups for the new Brandeis year. We are expecting a large response so send in your reservation early.

Check your mailbox for your invitation. If you have any questions, contact Barbara Polisky at 818-991-2667 email: ipolisky@aol.com

NEW ORGANIZATION NAME:
A BRIDGE FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE
The new name for the organization will be the Brandeis National Committee (BNC).

This name provides continuity with our proud history and acknowledges that we have expanded our horizons by broadening our membership appeal.

NEW MISSION STATEMENT:
SUPPORT FOR BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

The new mission statement reaffirms that the BNC's primary purpose is to provide philanthropic support for Brandeis University. It shifts financial support from the library alone to the university itself in order to offer broader giving opportunities that will enable all members to support Brandeis according to their interests.

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**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.



Presidium's Message

The Presidium is very pleased to welcome you to the start of a new BNC year. We have been busy all summer meeting with your elected board members to make sure that this year will run smoothly. Our Chapter By-Laws are in place. We are ready to roll.

An exciting year has been planned. It begins with our fabulous Membership Luncheon on Sept. 23rd at the North Ranch Country Club. We look forward to welcoming you there. Please invite your friends. Study Group Sign Ups will be held at this Event. Our beautiful Scrapbooks, Awards Books and our recent awards will be on display at the luncheon. Take a moment to look at what we have accomplished in just a few short years.

Membership Coffees are planned for new members of our chapter.

For the first time we have a Computer Information Specialist, Community Service Chairman and a Telephone Tree Chairman.

Our Board members and our Chairman are always available to you. Please consider volunteering. Join in the fun of planning an event or

a membership coffee, helping out with community service, or being a part of the telephone tree.



Honey Bencomo



Sharon Cohen



Beverly Sklar

We encourage you to attend our Board Meetings and see your chapter in action. The Board meets the 1st Thursday of the Month at 9:30 am at the Chabad House in Westlake Village; please call any of us for directions.

This is your chapter, get involved, give us your ideas, bring in your friends, join study groups, and support our events. Have fun with the members of the Conejo Valley Chapter.

We look forward to another great year as we begin our 2008-2009 season.

Your Presidium

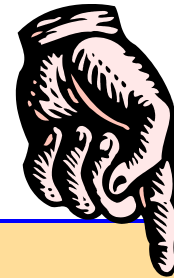
*Honey Bencomo (818)991-1391 danhoney@aol.com
Sharon Cohen (818)879-0744 forshar1@yahoo.com
Beverly Sklar (805)449-0039 stephensklar@aol.com*

Brandeis University Site Bytes



Women face tremendous challenges as they confront their later years. The mission of the National Program on Women and Aging is to focus national attention on the special concerns of women as they age, to develop solutions and strategies for dealing with these concerns, and to reach out to

women and organizations across the country, promoting the changes necessary to improve older women's lives. This program's activities are designed to promote security, health and dignity for women in their later years through research, publications and community education. The National Program on Women and Aging is part of The Heller School for Social Policy and Management and its Institute on Assets and Social Policy at Brandeis University.



SAVE THOSE DATES!

Membership Luncheon and Boutique on Sept. 23 at North Ranch Country Club.

**November 17th
Leah Jacob Garrick, a fourth generation Shanghai-Lander, speaking on "A Sephardic Journey".**

**January 28, 2009
The Palm Springs Follies**



CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER WINS COVETED AWARDS

Installation of Officers

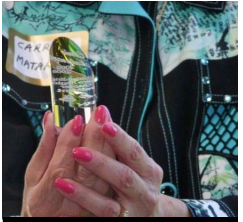


Carrie M. – outgoing president

The Installation of Officers for the 2008-09 fiscal years took place on June 6th at the lovely home and garden of Eve Loeb. Beverly Halpern, Past President of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, graciously served as the Installing Officer.

The 2007-08 Board was thanked for their service and relieved of their duties. Carrie Mataraza, our first outgoing President, was presented with Western Region President of the Year Award – the first time that this award was given, received a gift from the past Board, and high praise for all of her hard work. Under Carrie’s leadership our chapter has thrived. Carrie announced that the chapter was honored this year through awards: the Louis B. Brandeis Award

for surpassing our assignment for Membership and Financial goals, the National Chapter of the Year Award and the Western Region Chapter of the Year Award. She then thanked everyone for their help and support in making the Conejo Valley Chapter so special. The Officers and Board for the 2008-09 year were installed.



President of the Year Award

Clip and Save

BNC CONEJO VALLEY ELECTED BOARD 2008-09

Presidium:

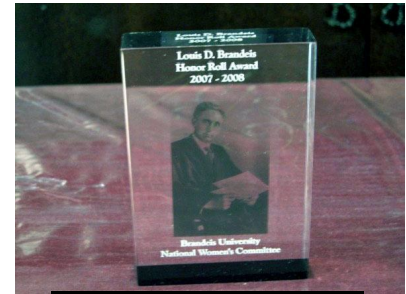
- Honey Bencomo 818-991-1391 danhoney@aol.com
- Sharon Cohen 818-879-0744 forshar1@yahoo.com
- Beverly Sklar 805-449-0039 stephensklar@aol.com
- Membership Vice President: Ellie Puls 818-889-5555 norm0020@yahoo.com
- Fundraising/Events Vice President: Barbara Polisky ipolisky@aol.com

Study Group Vice Presidents:

- Judy Grossmann 805-241-9216 lahoodie@roadrunner.com
- Laraine Karelitz 818-222-8461 laraine1@sbcglobal.net
- Nancy Minkow 805-496-6113 NVMLCSW@aol.com
- Treasurer: Artheen Block 818-996-3569 amanda177@aol.com
- Corresponding Secretary: Helen Rosenfeldt 805-241-4042 helen6@roadrunner.com
- Recording Secretary: Nina F. 805-987-7662 nfenster3@yahoo.com
- Communications Officer: Helene Lustig 805-379-8940 helene-wlv@roadrunner.com
- Parliamentarian: Michelle Stern mlsesqmom@aol.com
- Directors: Edith Dellorco – Community Service Chairman 805-777-1704 no email
- Shelia Gero - Women’s Issues Liaison 805-493-4142 sheilagero@gmail.com
- Alvira K. – Newsletter Chairman alvira@woman-only.com
- Berniece Reed – Telephone Tree 805-376-2092 danber1691@verizon.net
- Marsha Rosenblum – Installation Chairman 805-496-1463 marsha@rosenblums.org
- Lila Segal - Games Liaison 805-375-3145 newhiplila@roadrunner.com
- Renee Spero – Retention Chairman 805-374-9660 rsnh16@lafn.org
- Marilyn Wroobel-Publicity Chairman 818-889-0993 mjwcook@sbcglobal.net
- Bobbi Vinet – Chairman to VP of Fundraising 818-880-2920 bjvinet@sbcglobal.net



National Award



Louis B. Brandeis Award

A special “Thank You” to Eve Loeb, Beverly Halpern, my Co-chairmen Nancy Minkow and Rony Treibatch, my hard working committee: Laraine Karelitz, Laurie Abramson, Lila Segal, Helen Rosenfeldt and Rhoda Reiner. Alvira K. and Laraine K. were our photographers. The morning breakfast was donated by many members of the Board. It was a beautiful and memorable day.

Marsha Rosenblum,
Installation Chairman



Marsha Rosenblum, Beverly Sklar, Sharon Cohen, Beverly Halpern, Honey Bencomo

Conejo Valley BNC Study Groups Summer/Fall/ 2008

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Saturday	Sunday
1 st	Can We Talk (Women) 9:45 a.m. Book Club 12 Noon Bridge (singles) 1:00 p.m. 1 st and 3 rd	Literary Potpourri 10 a.m.	Women of a Certain Age 12:30 p.m. (1st & 3rd) Art & Antiques 11:45 a.m.	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. Flick Chicks (singles) 1:30 p.m. Men 's Open Forum 9:30 a.m.	Mah Jong Mavens 10 a.m. weekly		Going to the Theater A new group. See article on page 5
2 nd	Hiking 2 nd & 4 th in the a.m. Women in Transition 9:45 a.m. (2nd & 4th) Mah Jong 10:00 a.m.	Book Group 10:30. .Legal Puzzlers (singles) 1:00 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Readers 1 p.m. Bridge, couples 7 p.m. The Wild Bunch on the Go (On the Town, singles)	20 th Century Novels 9:30 a.m. Cinema Gals 1:00 p.m.	Pan 11:00 a.m. Group Karaoke 10 a.m. Legal Puzzlers (couples) 7:15 p.m. Cinema Addicts 7:30 p.m. Legal Puzzlers (singles) 1 p.m.		Needlepoint- Knitting * *New day and time to be decided	●
3 rd	Current Events (women) 9:30 a.m. Current Events 10:00 a.m.	Women's Awareness 10 a.m. Legal Puzzlers (couples) 7:15 p.m. On the Town (singles)	Happy Bookers 12 Noon Men's Current Events 9:45 a.m. Life's Issues: Women 9:45 a.m. Art s & Antiques 11:45 a.m.	On the Town, Daytime Divas (singles) On the Town Daytime Trotters (singles) Men's Open Forum 9:30 a.m. Mah Jong 10:30 a.m.			1. On the Town (couples) 2. On the Town (couples) 3. On the Town (couples)
4 th	Women's Life Issues 9:30 a.m.	Legal Puzzlers #2 (singles) 10:00 a.m.	Art Gallery Tours a.m. Yiddish 10 a.m.	Women's Issues #3 9:30 a.m. Art Gallery Tours a.m.		Movie Critics (couples) 7:30 p.m.	



STUDY GROUPS NEWS and UPDATES:

JOIN OUR STUDY GROUPS

This has been another great year for study groups; we have a total of 45 study groups and plan to start more groups in the fall. We look forward to meeting everyone at our fall luncheon, "Brandeis Goes Broadway", where we will have our first study group sign-ups for the new Brandeis year. If you have an idea for a study group, please let one of us know.

Laraine Karelitz

Study Group V.P.
818-222-8461
laraine1@sbcglobal.net

Judy Grossmann

Study Group V.P.
805-241-9216
lahoodie@roadrunner.com

Nancy Minkow

Study Group V.P.
805-496-6113
NVMLCSW@aol.com

Study group leaders:
Have any new or
interesting
information, pictures
or updates to share?
Please email to Alvira
alvira@woman-only.com

Current open groups include:

Art/Antiques Bobbi Albert 805 480-1846 teacherba@aol.com
Men's' Open Forum Kal Loeb 818 707-3455 kaleve21@earthlink.net
New Book Group Lucy Ableser 818 889-8880 lu.able@sbcglobal.net
Theater Group Nina Fenster 805 987-7662 nfenster@verizon.net
Women's' Life Issues Sheila Gero 805 493-4142 sheilagero@gmail.com
Art Gallery Tours Coralie Marlowe 818 222-7122 cm08@sbcglobal.net
Current Events Rosalie Bell 818 889-5666 rosaliebell@sbcglobal.net
Daytime Trotters Marilyn Wroebel 818 889-0993 mjwcook@sbcglobal.net
Group Karaoke Susan Goldman 818 222-4722 soogold@charter.net

Theater Group:

This is a new group that attends both small and large productions, usually at a Sunday Matinee, often with discounted tickets. Our next play will be "The Spin Cycle" at the Rubicon Theater in Ventura. This group is always open for new members: men and women singles and couples. You do not have to attend all of the plays. **Nina F.,** Leader - nfenster@verizon.net

Knitting and Needlework Group:

Our group will not be meeting until after the September luncheon. I will contact all interested members from the sign-up sheets at the luncheon along with our regular members to find a day and time that is convenient for the majority of us. All types and levels of hand work such as needlepoint, embroidery, knitting and crocheting are welcome. We work on our own projects, teaching, helping and inspiring each other. At our first meeting we will discuss doing a community service project together.

Helene Lustig, Leader - helene-wlv@adelphia.net

Woman's Awareness:

The members of this group take turns reporting on a different topic each month that is then discussed by the group. Past topics have included Global Warming, Memory Fitness, Woman Poets, Mothers and Daughters and the Jews of Shanghai. We also learn about interesting women in history.

Sharon Cohen, Leader - forshar1@yahoo.com (818-879-0744)

Daytime Divas and Daytime Trotters at Buddhist Temple





MEMBERSHIP NEWS

On October 24th, we are having an orientation coffee for new members at the home of Nancy Minkow in Westlake Village. We will explain the workings of our chapter and why we are such avid Brandeis Members. It is open to everyone so if you have someone you want invited please let me know.

Being your new Membership V.P. is very exciting. I appreciate all of the help that I have received and truly enjoy meeting our prospective and new members. Here are the names of our recent new members and we hardily welcome them.

Howard Hirsch
Barbara Kimmel

Elaine Edelstein
Linda Trainoff

Yolanda Hannifin
Shirley Doernberg

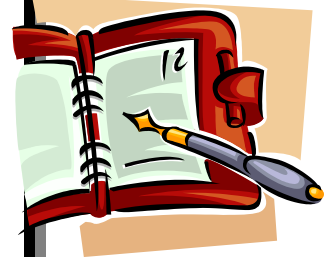
I look forward to a really great year and many new members.

Ellie Puls -- Membeship V.P -- Email: norm0020@yahoo.com 818-399-5770

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17th
Leah Jacob Garrick, a fourth generation Shanghai-Lander, speaking on "A Sephardic Journey".

January 28,2009
The Palm Springs Follies



Fundraising

Our Fundraising Committee is off to a great start. We have grown with the addition of many new members who have brought lots of new ideas. If you are interested in having fun while volunteering on the Committee, please contact me.

Barbara Polisky
Fundraising VP
818-991-2667
Email: ipolisky@aol.com

CHAPTER KICKS OFF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Our newly organized Community Service Committee has been busy implementing a number of projects for our membership. The first project involves an abused women's shelter. We are collecting small toiletries, hotel or sample size, for the women. Some members of the committee are baby sitting the children at the shelter while their mothers receive training or look for jobs. Working with Verizon, we are also collecting old cell phones that will be programmed to call only 911 and will be given to the women. Another service project, held at the Agoura Library, will coordinate local high school students to teach our area older residents how to use the computer. We are also collecting yarn and need members to help crochet or knit Afghans.

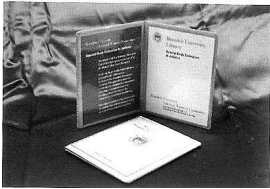
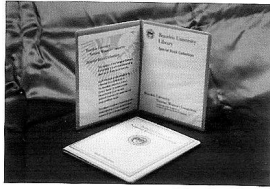
Our goal is two-fold. We want to give back to our local community and have it be known that the Conejo Valley Chapter of BNC is committed to not only providing financial support for Brandeis University but is also committed to being a strong advocate in our local community.

Please join us in our efforts to help others. When we all do a little bit, we accomplish a lot. Bring the toiletries and yarn to your Study Group meetings so that your leaders can pass them on to the committee. A big "Thank You" to my wonderful committee. If you are interested in volunteering on the committee, please call me.

Edith Dellorco, Chairman (805-777-1704)



BOOK FUND HAS TRIBUTES FOR EVERY OCCASION



Tributes are always 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.

We look forward to continuing the Conejo Valley Chapter's tradition of raising funds. Book Fund offers members a way of enriching the University by sending meaningful tributes for many different occasions. Please call either of us to order tributes to be sent for you. We promise same day service!!

We are the new Book Fund Chairmen:

Muriel Rosenkranz
(805)445-9004 -- murcal29@msn.com

Judy Solish
(818)995-1350 -- nanajs@sbc.global.net

Our Deepest Sympathy

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Rita Steinberg.

Rita passed away at the end of May.

Our sincere condolences to her family.

CHAPTER TRIBUTES

<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>Message</u>
CHAI Joe Siegel	Lorraine Gousman	Thank You
LEARNED RESEARCH JOURNAL Beverly Halpern	Conejo Chapter Board	In appreciation for conducting our Installation.
Carrie Mataraza	Conejo Chapter Board	In appreciation for your work as Chapter President.
Eve Loeb	Conejo Chapter Board	Thank you for sharing your home with us.
TRIBUTES Elaine Blonder	Helene Lustig	In memory of your husband Lloyd

A SEPHARDIC JOURNEY

We are thrilled to announce that Leah Jacob Garrick will be our guest speaker on Monday, November 17th.

Leah was born in Shanghai, the fourth generation of her family to live there. She had a typical colonial upbringing -English girls' school, servants, and afternoon tea, all incorporated into an observant Sephardic Jewish lifestyle. She lived through the war years under Japanese occupation and came to the United States in 1947. She has returned to Shanghai several times since.

A small community of 500-700 Baghdadian Jews had settled in Shanghai, and was faced with absorbing 20,000 Jews fleeing Nazi Europe. Hear first hand what happened to this community over the next 100 years, as the Jews of Shanghai were rehabilitated with accommodations, soup kitchens, schools and hospitals, and yet, in the end, vanished.

Please join us as we hear about Leah's most interesting life.

Inside — 1) Updated Study Group Calendar 2008-09
2) New Board/Officers, 2008-2009, Installation and awards, Study Group News, Membership, Luncheon information

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Conejo Valley Chapter
2173 Hillsbury Rd.
Westlake Village, CA 91361



Free Study Group Coupon!

Membership and study group VP's want to be sure that every member understands the use of

the Study Group Fee Coupons. While dues had not been raised in quite some time, it was still a shock to see the new amount due to National. Therefore, our chapter decided on its own that we would give our members one study group free for this Brandeis year, thus lowering your total BNC costs. Everyone who paid the full dues of \$60.00 is entitled to the coupon.

Give your coupon to any *one* Study Group Leader instead of the usual \$15.00 study group fee.

Study Group Guidelines for Spouses

Please Note:

If a husband and wife are participating in study groups together or individually, they *both* must be BNC members in good standing with dues for each person paid through July, 2009.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE EMAIL . . .



We want to be sure that you receive all of the information you need to stay involved and enjoy all the activities that our chapter has to offer. Much of our communication is sent via email because it is fast and saves postage. But if you do not use email, we want you to receive the information in a timely way, too.

To make sure that you get all the news when everyone else does, just:

* Send **5 stamped, self-addressed envelopes to Barbara Polisky, Fundraising 5 6 5 8 Starwood Court Westlake Village, CA 91362**

Then, whenever any email flyer or other info is sent, you will get the same news via U.S. Mail. We want to make sure you enjoy your membership!