

We're Still Here!

Check out our New Look in Study Groups
and discover other stay-at-home activities



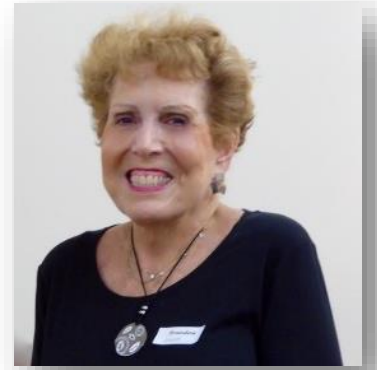
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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Sages often say...."May you live in interesting times." I'm not sure if that's intended to be a blessing or a curse. I do know that being quarantined during a pandemic is beyond interesting and truly tests our mettle on so many levels.

Brandeis University is offering many classes and lectures online and I hope you are taking advantage of those as well as local offerings such as the San Diego Art Museums and other offerings on your phone, tablet or computer. Our chapter as well is offering several study groups online...we are deeply committed to 21st century learning.



As ZOOM is now a permanent part of our vocabulary, I urge you to sign onto BrandeisNOW - <https://www.brandeis.edu/now/> for a series of offerings including this on May 19th at 9am PDT which is vitally important no matter one's political leaning. Two are featured here:

In The Balance: The 2020 Elections in Historical Context
Profs. Dan Kryder and Julian Zelizer '91

Sponsor(s): Brandeis Alumni Association and Brandeis National Committee (BNC)

Reading Glikl: Life Stories from the Pen of a 17th-Century Jewish Working Mother, Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 2:30pm PDT.

Glikl was a mother of fourteen, a savvy businesswoman, story-teller, bereaved widow—who wrote in 1691. Her early Yiddish memoirs are among the first full-length autobiographical works by a Jew. In three sessions you can hear from this astounding woman about the household and business she managed, the wealthy Jews she encountered, her sometimes hair-raising travels, and understanding the Jewish tradition that formed the very fabric of her life.

Click on <https://www.brandeis.edu/events/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D144431357>

Here are the stellar recipients of this year's honorary degrees: Ruth Calderon, a scholar of Jewish religious texts and a former member of the Israeli Knesset; philanthropist Alan Hassenfeld, retired CEO of Hasbro and co-chair of the Brandeis International Business School board of advisors; television producer Marta Kauffman '78, creator of the iconic series "Friends" and more recently "Grace and Frankie;" and Howardena Pindell, American painter and mixed-media artist whose body of work since the 1960s confronts racism and other forms of inequality.

TIME has named Brandeis University Professor Anita Hill to its 100 Women of the Year, a list of leaders, innovators, activists, entertainers, athletes and artists who have defined the last century.

I urge you to send in this year's membership dues...not just to continue your support (which remains vital) but to remain an integral part of the ongoing Mission to support education and understanding epitomized by Brandeis University. We are a cog in the wheel driving the belief that those willing to work to make a better world deserve our support, especially during times such as these.

May you stay well and safe....and may we soon meet again...in person.

Linda Epstein

The New Look in Study Groups – and How We are Coping



Many thanks go to **Stan Schatt** for presenting his **Great Decisions** (above) and **Elaine Eisenberg's Contemporary Literature** groups online via Zoom. All the participants were extremely grateful, and proved that yes, Study Groups continue to meet!

Special thanks also go to **Barbara Howard**, who arranged for the **April Board Meeting**, held via Zoom. It was wonderful to see everyone, and the board even got a small bit of business done. Unfortunately, nothing can be planned yet, and most Study Groups are winding down for the year.

'**Deis Flicks** study group leader **Sue Berger** suggests a film available on Amazon or U-tube as the '**Deis Flicks** movie for this month. Indiana high school student Ashton Gleckman was 17 when he started working on a feature-length documentary about the Holocaust, "We Shall Not Die Now." With very little funding, Gleckman did the research and interviews, traveled to Poland as a one-man crew, co-wrote and recorded the score, and edited all the footage. As one famous Holocaust historian asked on meeting him, 'You're HOW old?

The article describes what influenced him at an even younger age and the actual making of the movie - see https://www.timesofisrael.com/millions-watch-teen-high-school-dropouts-film-on-us-holocaust-survivors/?utm_source=The For the film itself, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaHBB7b1VCU&feature=youtu.be&has_verified=1

Thanks go to **Susan Posner**, who writes: don't forget our local cultural gem, The Oceanside Museum of Art - Click here for a variety of virtual museum experiences.

And thanks to **Iris Kanter** for more museum tour ideas: <https://hellogiggles.com/news/museums-with-virtual-tours/>

For more ideas, see the long list provided in the April Special Issue, now available online at <http://blogs.brandeis.edu/bncsandieguito/>

Slate of Officers and Standing Committees – 2020-2021 San Dieguito Chapter

OFFICERS

President – Linda Epstein	linda228@mac.com
Vice President – Elaine Eisenberg	eisenem2@aol.com
Treasurer – Arthur Birnbaum	abirnbaum15@gmail.com
Membership – Myrna Gale	galemyrna@yahoo.com
– Rebecca (Becky) Thein	rebeccathien2@gmail.com
Recording Secretary – Duxie Smukler	dsmukler@san.rr.com
Corresponding Secretary – Bea Sklarewitz	aquariusbea@roadrunner.com
Nominating Committee –	

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bulletin – Jane Polgar	janepolgar@roadrunner.com
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Directory – Joan Kushinoff	kushijo@hotmail.com
Graphic Artist – Barbara Howard	barbarahoward@gmail.com
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Iris Kanter and Myra Brand;	irisnk@comcast.net; myrabrand@gmail.com
Barbara Howard, Registrar	barbarahoward@gmail.com
Sunshine – Carol Shakter	carollps3@gmail.com
Tributes (Book Fund) – Cheryl Kaufman	herscheryl@gmail.com
Website – Joan Kushinoff, Jane Polgar	kushijo@hotmail.com
Board Member at Large – Gayle Wise	gwise2@aol.com

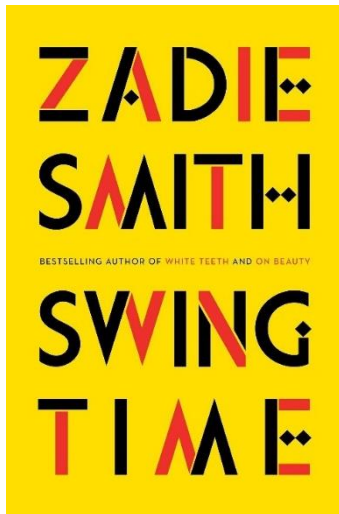
Officers 2019 - 2020

<i>President – Linda Epstein</i>	<i>linda228@mac.com</i>
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<i>Recording Secretary – Duxie Smukler</i>	<i>dsmukler@san.rr.com</i>
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<i>Special Events Chair – Phyllis Perkal</i>	<i>phyllisperkal@san.rr.com</i>

The Bulletin is published every other month by the San Dieguito Chapter of the BNC
Editor: Jane Polgar janepolgar@roadrunner.com 760-633-2259

The Last Freshman Book

Although our chapter's program had to be cancelled, you might want to read last year's freshman book choice.



Swing Time is the 2016 New York Times bestselling novel by British author Zadie Smith. Set in London, New York, and West Africa, the story follows two mixed-race young girls who aspire to be tap dancers when they grow up.

It's a close but complicated childhood friendship that ends abruptly in their early twenties, never to be revisited, but never quite forgotten. Tracey makes it to the chorus line but struggles with adult life, while her friend leaves the old neighborhood behind, traveling the world as an assistant to a famous singer, Aimee, observing close up how the one percent live. When Aimee develops grand philanthropic ambitions, the story moves from London to West Africa, where diaspora tourists travel back in time to find their roots, young men risk their lives to escape into a different future, the women dance just like Tracey—the same twists, the same shakes—and the origins of a profound inequality are not a matter of distant history, but a present dance to the music of time.

Life At Seacrest Village

Here's a quick update on our partner and generous host, Seacrest Village, and how their efforts combined with the cooperation of all residents have kept Seacrest safe.

NO visitors are allowed....any packages or gifts are left outside the main entrance. They are labeled and then sanitized and taken to the recipient. All meals....whether at Goldberg or independent and assisted living are delivered to rooms or apartments three times each day. Enrichment is offered via the Seacrest closed circuit TV channel, and there are monitored outdoor activities....with everyone in a mask and observing social distancing.

They are deeply committed to the safety and well-being of each and every one...staff and resident. We wish them continued good health.



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.



Meet a Member

Sharon Kroopkin

Early Years and Family

Sharon was a WWII baby whose dad was in service, and the young family traveled all over the U.S. Although he lost a leg he took advantage of the GI Bill and had a long career as a revenue officer with the IRS. Originally living in the city of Chicago, her family moved to the suburbs when she was in fifth grade. She was double promoted and doing well when her family moved back to the city. She was a junior in high school. This turned out to be fortuitous because Bowen H.S. is where Sharon met her husband Mike. Starting out as friends, they married when they were 19. At 21 Sharon had her first child, a daughter named Debbie. David was born 3 years later and Vicki, who later changed her name to Shakti, was born 7 years after that. There are now 5 grandchildren in the family, ages 12 to 16, who live in Chicago, Seattle and Santa Fe.

Career and Interests

Sharon worked as a secretary for Bell Telephone for 3 years and then went back to school to get her AA degree at Prairie State College, where she became certified as a pre-school teacher. Sharon taught preschool for 15 years at the local JCC in Flossmoor, and then ran a senior club there for an additional 7. Sharon and Mike, a real estate broker and owner of a Re-Max franchise, might be called “professional volunteers,” as they have devoted much time and energy to this wherever they lived. Sharon served on the board of many Jewish organizations and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, where she was chosen as “Mrs. Jaycee of the year”. Sharon and Mike attended many conventions all over the country and she was even able to give a speech once about how to be a “supportive spouse.” Additionally, they have always been interested in adult learning and have taken many, many courses over the years including Melton. She became a Bat Mitzvah at 50. Sharon advises that she has always been an avid reader. She once wrote a book for her grandchildren called “Dinasnore Land”.

BNC

Sharon and Mike were “snowbirds” using a motor home to come to San Diego in the winter. Twenty-three years ago they were introduced to the quaint village of Carlsbad and bought a home there. Nine years ago they made the move permanent. She was invited to a BNC Tea and was excited by the study groups, and she and Mike have led several for the chapter. Sharon served as Study Group Chairman for two years and is currently our Social Action Chairperson. She also volunteers at Seacrest. When asked what she liked about the chapter she said the people, learning and donating to worthy causes. When asked if there was anything people would be surprised to learn about her she said that she was told she “should have been a stand-up comedian” but she told them that she was too old and would have to be a “sit down comedian.” Sharon’s lifetime commitment to service has been of great value to San Dieguito.

Elaine Eisenberg

Celebrate!

Happy Birthday



June 5 – Alice Chary
June 10 – Jane Polgar and Suzie Kaplan
June 11 – Charles Mittman
June 15 – Cheryl Kaufman
June 18 – Susan Gail
June 28 – Geri Shaeval



Happy Anniversary

June 7 - Cynthia & Gilbert Raff
June 20 – Suzie & Neil Kaplan
June 21 – Sarah & Mark Birnbaum
June 23 – Ilene & Charles Mittman
June 27 – Cheryl & Herschel Kaufman
June 30 – Bev & Joe Fremont

(May celebrations appeared in the last issue.)

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



Get Well

Sondra Albers
Elza Rzepa

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

\$501 Major Book Collection

\$101-\$499 Special Book Collection

\$56 Learned Research Journal for Medical Research

\$36 Learned Research Journal

\$25.50 (or more) BNC Scholarship Campaign Card

\$25.50 Sustaining the Mind Card

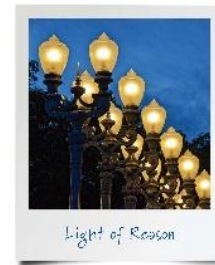
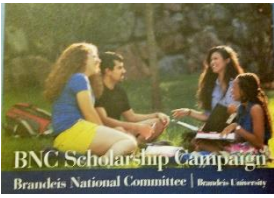
\$25.50 Magnify the Mind Card - NEW

\$18.50 Louis Brandeis Card (Chai)

\$10.50 BNC Library Photo Card

\$10.50 Book Fund Tribute Card

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



TRIBUTES

BNC Scholarship Fund

A special donation of \$500 has been made to the BNC Scholarship Fund by Renee Parker

Sustaining the Mind

To Bev & Joe Fremont, in memory of their son, Allan Fremont from Renee Parker

Light of Reason

To Stan Schatt, Thank You, From Elaine Eisenberg

To Sondra Albers, Speedy Recovery from Jane & Peter Polgar

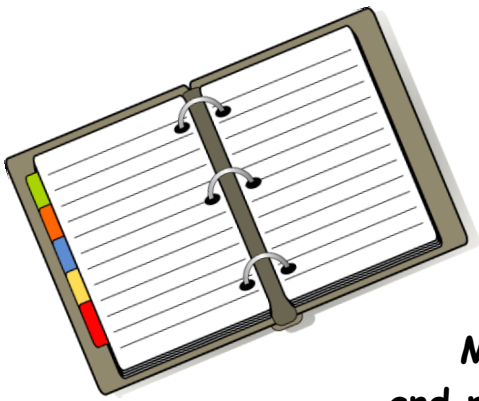
It's time to renew your membership

Because for the unforeseeable future, there is nobody in the BNC office to handle a payment by check, so please renew online. (It's also being green.) If you cannot pay via the internet, please call **781-736-7767** and leave a message with your name and phone number, and someone will get back to you to assist you. Most likely, you will reach a courteous, helpful student worker who will guide you along.



Support the Brandeis Library, student scholarships, and cutting edge research at the University. Join a local and national community of members who benefit from Brandeis' study groups, lifelong learning through events and lectures from Brandeis professors, and faculty-authored study guides.

To renew online
Click here: giving.brandeis.edu/bncrenew
\$60 per individual
\$100 for a couple (two members living at the same address)
Dues are tax deductible.



Stay well!

Your calendar won't stay blank for long.

Meantime, check out our chapter website for photos and news, and a list of things to keep you busy.

<http://blogs.brandeis.edu/bncsandieguito/>

