

## Don't Miss Our Second Book & Author Conversation



February 16 at 11:00 a.m. – via Zoom

with **Deborah Gaal**  
author of the prize-winning novel  
**The Dream Stitcher**

Invite your friends and family  
\$18 to benefit the BNC Honoring Our History Campaign  
Please use the mail-in form on page 8

Sign up for 'second semester'.  
See the attached revised Study and Social Groups Brochure.  
Many groups meet all year long. Join in. Don't miss out!

## Coming in February!

The San Diego International Jewish Film Festival



## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Even though we've always been taught to not rush time....it certainly feels as we've all been eager to lean into 2021 in the hope our lives and those of the nation will be more peaceful and certainly with the ability to see and hug those we love.

Probably none of us knew what "Zoom" was this time in 2020 and yet it's allowed us to 'see' each other and participate in Study Groups as well as hear and see an outstanding author presentation by Lisa See which we shared with other chapters across America. We too have taken advantage of offerings from other chapters as well as presentations from Congregation Beth Israel in our partnership with them.

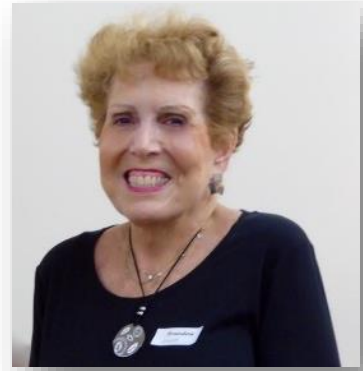
Despite the quarantine and winter storms, the Brandeis campus continues to flourish. An example: Many of us have been impacted by cyberattacks (the dreaded phone call telling you your computer is compromised and to phone.....and they will 'get into' your device to fix it) only to find all of your information is now on the dark web, easily accessed by those who can drain your accounts. Even the most intelligent person can fall for this scam. It is said there's at least a 50% chance you will be a victim of a similar ruse.

Ahmed Sadiq MSF '21 has researched and presented a course at Brandeis International Business School taught by Professor Anna Scherbina, a former member of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, which focused on a 2018 breach which impacted between 50 million and 90 million Facebook users.

This research, as well as the breach of Marriott Hotels (by a foreign government), places Brandeis, students and researchers on the cutting edge of finding ways to protect all of us. I urge you to sign onto BrandeisNow and read the current studies.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2021.... to participation in the San Diego International Jewish Film Festival and another Conversations with Authors Zoom, and with the hope that we can soon be together to celebrate friendship and good health.

All the best,  
Linda



**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

## So Grateful for Your Generosity!



These may not look like beautiful photos, but ... to the Marines at Camp Pendleton our unwanted 'stuff' is beautiful and will find new and useful lives in their homes.

Thanks go to Community Service, Social Action Chair Sharon Kroopkin (and Mike) for offering their garage and collecting our things.

Masked and socially distant, chapter members making deliveries enjoyed unusual Covid-era face-to-face hellos in their driveway.

Sharon wrote:

Our chapter just had a very successful collection for Camp Pendleton Marines. We would like to thank everyone who helped make their lives better by supplying them with new or gently used kitchen items and linens, children's books, toys, gift cards etc.

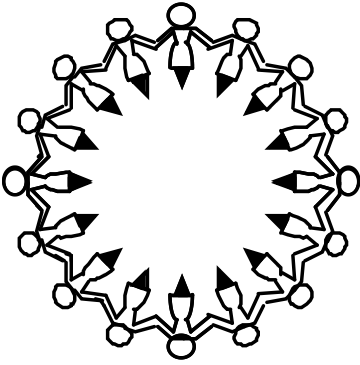
What a mitzvah you performed. I am proud to be your Social Action Chairperson. We filled half our garage and I know we made a lot of people happy.



Happy, Healthy & COVID FREE New Year

Thank you,  
Sharon Kroopkin

## The 2020-2021 Directory is Here



With many thanks to Joan Kushinoff and her constant updates to keep the chapter in touch.

Everyone should have received an email edition of the chapter Membership Directory from Joan on Dec. 7 - both a PDF and a word version. You can print it or download it to your mobile device for easy access at all times.

The Membership Directory is also on our website

<http://blogs.brandeis.edu/bnccsandieguito/>. Click on the 'Directory' tab; enter

the password BNCcontacts; click on Directory 2020 – 21 website 12 14 20. You will only have to give the password once.

If you would like to have a printed copy of the Directory booklet mailed to you, please send a check for \$12.00 made out to BNC, to Joan Kushinoff, 360 E. 72 St. Apt. A206, New York, NY 10021

## It's Not Too Late to Join Study and Social Groups – Second Semester

**The next best thing to being there is....  
being there via Zoom!**

These groups are thriving online. See the updated brochure, attached. If you've paid \$50 for unlimited groups, sign up for another, or discover a new interest for just \$10. Many of the groups will continue year-round.

Send your registration form (also attached) and checks to Barbara Howard, 1140 Pasadero Dr., Escondido, CA 92029 ([barbarahoward@gmail.com](mailto:barbarahoward@gmail.com)) She will be sure that your email information gets to the study group leader, who will send you information and the Zoom links each month.

### **Free for everyone: DayTimers from Congregation Beth Israel:**

Thursday, January 21 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Rabbi Jason Nevarez "The Rabbi's Lens: A Personal Journey Through the Promised Land"

Thursday, February 18 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Dr. Alan Molk and Dr. Robert Shapiro "Saving Lives. Saving Dignity: A Unique End-of-Life Perspective From Two Emergency Physicians"



## BNC is a Community Partner



Our chapter is a Community Partner for the 31st Annual San Diego International Jewish Film Festival – the largest Jewish cultural event in San Diego. Members will receive a \$2 discount on tickets, which go on sale Wednesday, January 6.

The entire list of films and special events and schedule will be available online later this week. Meantime, the chapter discount code is **BNC21**. This code will take \$2 off an individual ticket purchase at checkout.

Choose from 36 different films – to be enjoyed virtually from the comfort of your home over 11 days. As an added feature, more than 20 films will be available on-demand throughout the duration of the festival. Enjoy them on your own time and join the Festival for live virtual programs.

More information about the films and live events can be found at [ficc.org/film](http://ficc.org/film), with details Jan. 6. A print brochure has already been mailed to many local homes as well.

## THE BRANDEIS SCOOP

This short video is worth one minute of your time. Click below to see the campus during the winter break.

For those who've left snow and cold behind, here's to memories and good riddance!

<https://www.brandeis.edu/now/2020/december/winter-campus-video.html>



**There has never been a semester quite like it** — classes taught by Zoom, having to wear face masks on campus, rarely leaving campus, taking a test for COVID-19 twice a week (successfully keeping the pandemic off campus), and always worrying that you or a friend might become infected.

These are just a few of the challenges students experienced this fall as they tried their best to have a “normal” college experience. Read about it in the words of three students on the next page.

## **More Brandeis Scoop**

### **Three students describe ‘a semester like no other’**

#### **Uajda Musaku '21**

As a senior on the swim team, I was definitely upset that I wasn't going to be able to interact with my team as much as I liked. Some of my best friends at Brandeis were other seniors on the swim team. I was also looking forward to providing guidance to this year's first years. But with only 10 people allowed in the pool at a time, our interactions were limited.

Still, being allowed to practice at all was enough to fill me with gratitude. We even held our annual senior swim meet. It was far from traditional, but it still managed to bring my time on the team to a successful end.

If this semester has taught me anything, it's to cherish what you have in the moment, your passions, your time and your loved ones.

#### **Sonali Anderson '22**

I knew my role as a Community Advisor (CA) was going to change. Since I'd no longer be advising first years, I expected a decrease in interactions with the students. My focus was on sophomores, juniors and seniors.

However, the extent to which new COVID-19 related campus regulations made fostering community amongst students living on my floor even more difficult was more than I could have imagined. I missed people filling the halls or knocking on my door. I felt isolated.

Back home in Georgia, the pandemic is mostly on TV. People are aware that it exists but are not seriously being urged to protect themselves and others. Coming to Massachusetts showed me just how selfish that is. Having rules and restrictions drastically change my life impacted my view on the importance of individuals' actions.

#### **Frank Shi '23**

When Brandeis shut down in the spring, I had to return to my home country of China and take classes remotely.

The 12-hour time difference between China and Brandeis required that I operate in both time zones. Having never experienced anything like this before, I missed many deadlines and my grades suffered. Synchronously attending classes that are in the middle of the night in my time zone was difficult.

Before the fall semester began, I sent out emails to all the professors of classes I wanted to take. They were often very understanding. My professors held office hours that were considerate of the time in China. This made the world of difference for Chinese international students like me.

I haven't mastered the time difference just yet. I was still thrown by Daylight Savings increasing the difference to 13 hours. Nevertheless, I discovered that carefully managing my time and being communicative with professors was key to making this semester less chaotic than last. These habits served as some of my most useful tools for remote learning.

Adapted from an article in BrandeisNOW by Bobbie Norman

## Meet a Member

### Becky Thien



#### Early Years and Work life

Although Becky was born in St. Louis, she moved to Los Angeles when she was a year and a half old and lived all of her formative years there. She graduated from San Diego State where she majored in nursing and where she met her husband Stan and married him while still in college. She however never practiced nursing but worked for Palomar Hospital for 44 years in various administrative roles. Her husband was from Escondido and they moved there in 1973 and started a family. Stan was a H.S. Special Education teacher and a basketball and tennis coach as well.

#### Family and Interests

Becky is the mother of 5 children. Mara, who lives in Escondido and works as a Starbucks partner and trainer, has 4 children. Joe is married, the father of two children, and is the CEO of a franchise of American Leak Detection and lives in Richmond, CA. Sarah is married, lives and works in San Luis Obispo where she does public relations for Cal Poly Alumni University and the Cal Poly Alumni Association. Emily is married with 2 children and also lives in San Luis Obispo where she is a 6th grade teacher in an immersion school, teaching in Spanish and English. Christopher is a new attorney and also newly married during the pandemic and lives in San Diego.

Becky was a belly dancer and was part of a group that entertained at shows and weddings. She still is an active gym member and recently broke her wrist when learning pickle ball. She is a novice knitter, plays Mah jongg, and Canasta, and attends the symphony and the opera. She is also involved in Nir Tamid Conservative Synagogue of Poway.

#### BNC

Becky tells me that she was not a joiner while she was working and raising a family, but has really enjoyed becoming a part of our chapter. In the two years she has been a member she has volunteered to serve as co-membership secretary and is doing a wonderful job. Recently she started a walking group for the chapter and it has been very successful. She was recruited by Iris Kanter, Myra Brand and Barbara Howard.

When I asked Becky what she liked about San Dieguito she said first it was the people, and she has found the study and social groups enlightening and a lot of fun. We are so fortunate that Becky found us.

Elaine Eisenberg



## This Month We Feature the University Photography Collection

This collection comprises over 100,000 photo negatives documenting Brandeis University's own history and development, and showcasing the influential people, places and events associated with the school in its founding years, including the Brandeis University National Women's Committee (now the BNC).

The University Photography Collection is among the most used collections in the Archives. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and administrators, and community researchers have access to the digitized materials.

Because damage to original acetate negatives is irreversible, digitization will preserve them before they are permanently lost. There is so much to see! Check out the [Archives & Special Collections](#) to view the many online exhibits - and get lost in the past.

Please support [Honoring Our History!](#)



## RSVP for the Book & Author Conversation with Deborah Gaal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

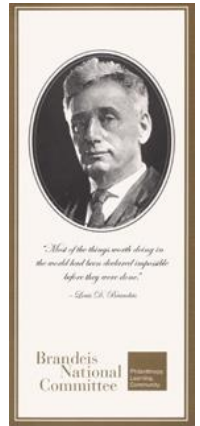
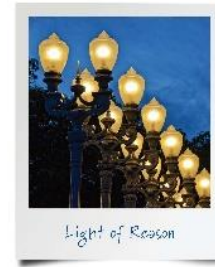
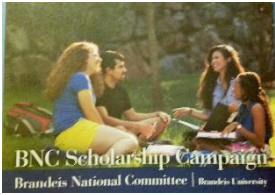
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail \$18 check payable to BNC and this reservation form to  
Barbara Howard, 1140 Pasadero Dr., Escondido, CA 92029  
(barbarahoward@gmail.com)**

**You must include your email address in order to receive an invitation to the Zoom event.  
Proceeds benefit the BNC Honoring our History Campaign**



## TRIBUTES



### Special Book Collection

*To Ida Shrieber, Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, from Linda & Marvin Epstein, Bev & Joe Fremont and Jane & Peter Polgar*

### Sustaining the Mind Card

*To Janet Kaufman, in memory of her grandmother Jerry Hart, from Cheryl & Herschel Kaufman*

### Louis Brandeis Card

*To Stuart and Linda Kryshka, in memory of their daughter, Marisa Kryshka, from Cheryl & Herschel Kaufman*

### Light of Reason Card

*To Barbara Howard, Speedy Recovery, from Bev & Joe Fremont*

*To Aleta Kerth, in memory of her husband Fred Kerth, from Cheryl & Herschel Kaufman*

*To Ted Bially, Speedy Recovery from Linda & Marvin Epstein*

*To Ken Michael & family in memory of wife, Shelah Michael, from Elaine Eisenberg and family*

*To Melanie Mark & family, in memory of mother, Honey Mark, from Elaine Eisenberg & family*

*Celebrating a birthday, a milestone, or looking for the best way to honor the memory of a loved one?*

*BNC offers Tribute cards from \$10 to \$500.*

*Your donation goes toward education opportunities, scientific advances, and supporting the Brandeis Libraries.*

### 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 (made out to BNC) to Cheryl at 3450 Third Avenue, Unit 206, San Diego, CA 92103**



## Celebrate!

### Happy Birthday

January 1 – Cheryl Weeber  
January 11 – Leah Karp  
January 13 - Milt Perkal, Barbara Tilker  
January 22 - Joan Kaswan  
February 13 - Cynthia Birnbaum, Lenore Shapp  
February 28- Linda Epstein



### Happy Anniversary

January 25 -Myra & Jonathan Brand  
February 12 - Alice Chary and Bill Schilling



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



**Get Well**  
Ted Bially

### A warm welcome to our newest members

Pamela Cornblum  
Merilee Masters  
Arthur Edwin Gould  
Dennis Howard  
Elaine Howard  
Evelyn Lamon  
Carol Joy Robinson  
Sandra Silverman

Marsha Sutton  
Diana Mass  
Phyllis Savin  
Elyse Perlman  
Sydney Serwin  
Susan Bauer



We look forward to the day when we can meet in person. Meanwhile, enjoy our study and social groups online.



## ***Save the Dates!***

February 16-11:00 a.m. Book & Author Conversation

February 11-21 San Diego International Jewish Film Festival

**Here's to 2021 - filled with peace, light,  
good times and good health!**

Check out our chapter website  
<http://blogs.brandeis.edu/bnccsandieguito/>