Oh, What Fun We’ve Been Having

**SCRABBLE**

Bandying JO, QI, XU and ZA at the post-election scrabble session gave our minds a break. Many thanks to hostess Annette Paley, who provided delicious refreshments, score pads, and lists of those obscure 2-letter words.

Sandy Wagner selected and wrapped intriguing prizes.

We word-lovers will prepare for an encore in the spring!

**A Brand New Session -- PLAY READING**

On December 1st, nine Brandeis members (thespians all), joined together at 1st Stage to read Neil Simon's play, Broadway Bound. After a tour of the facility - including the set and "home" of the Jerome family in the play, the group read the first act. The reading conjured up 1949 Brooklyn and the world of the play. Everyone agreed that the experience was great fun, and that the play was authentic to the time and place that Simon remembered. The play is long, so we could read only the first act in the allotted time. But, the first act was funny and poignant, so we got a sense for the family, the times, and the immigrant experience in the second generation and beyond.

We shared reading the various Parts, and noted the excellent performing skills of our members. Everyone enjoyed the experience so much that we decided to choose a play for another Brandeis reading in the spring. If you would like to join this lively group, or if you have a good suggestion for a play we should read, please contact Eileen Mandell (mandells1@comcast.net - 703-465-1607) or Sandy Wagner (swagner222@cs.com - 703-732-4743). Some of the readers attended the play (second act included) the following Sunday.

Broadway Bound- a semi-autobiographical play runs at 1st Stage through December 18.
NEW MEMBER LUNCHEONS

Diane DeMaio, Karen Hecker, Linda Goldberg, and Francie Fox-Schweber, our Membership Committee, outdid themselves in hosting two New Member Luncheons. Both the November and December Luncheons were elegant and well attended. Sheryl Leeds, hosting the November Luncheon on short notice, served a delicious lunch on antique Limoges luncheon plates. She’s pictured here at her luncheon with new member Beverly Sleph.

Karen Hecker hosted the December Luncheon at her lovely home in Vienna. The purpose of these events, along with ‘getting to know you’, is to encourage new members to take part in BNC activities early and often.
On Wednesday morning, Nov. 16, there were 14 of us who visited the Library of Congress, Jefferson Building, for a very special tour. Connie Carter, our guide, a retired LOC librarian who volunteers there 40(!) hours a week, took us to see the Gershwin Room, Groucho Marx collection, Main Reading Room, the stacks, processing center, a balcony view of the Main Reading Room which afforded a look at the huge statues of literary figures and into various other locations in the building. Then she led us through the subterranean hallway into the Madison Building and up to a private dining room next to the cafeteria. In that room, Connie had placed packets of informational and promotional material for us, decorated the table and another display table with cookbooks along with other food-related treasures. After we had eaten our lunch, Connie brought out her delicious, homemade chocolate-chip cookies which she baked using her mother’s Tollhouse Cookie Recipe. Here’s Connie (standing) and our Members, watching an informative video at the Library, and below is the recipe for Connie’s fabulous Chocolate-Chip Cookies.
Gladys Carter’s Oatmeal/Choc Chip Cookies This is a double recipe--which is what I always make. It will fill two lasagna pans.

2 sticks of butter--can use margarine (real, not the spread) 12 TBSP. brown sugar 12 TBSP. white sugar 1 tsp. vanilla (let it run over a bit)

1 tsp. water 2 eggs 1 1/2 cups of all purpose flour 1 tsp. soda 1/2 tsp. salt 2 cups of oatmeal (I use the quick kind for 3 half cups and the old fashioned kind for the last half cup. 2 cups of Toll House Choc Chips (my mother went to school with Ruth Wakefield, so I always buy the yellow package--but actually use the 12 oz. package of that and occasionally a handful of dark chocolate chips.

I let the butter stay out for 6 hours or overnight--another cousin melts hers and doesn’t use the beater--so it is soft I always do the sugar by the spoonful--cream the sugars and the butter, add vanilla, water, and beat, but you can put in 3/4 cup of each of the sugars.

I do use a sifter--but only dump the dry ingredients in--and sift once; mother used to sift twice Add dry ingredients Add oatmeal Add choc chips

I use small cookie scoop (not the smallest--more medium) or you can use a heaping teaspoon I use no stick cookie sheets and put twelve on a sheet Preheat oven 350 and look after 7 minutes--when they begin to brown I take them out--leave on pan for a couple of minutes and I take off with a cheese spatula--though a regular spatula will do. If your cookie sheets are new you can practically take off with your fingers.

Nice cookie for those that cannot eat nuts.
More Special Events Yet To Come……

CRAFTY LADY – Handcrafted greeting cards

Our talented member, Pat Britz, handcrafts beautiful greeting cards for all occasions. You too can learn to create beautiful greeting cards. Here are just a few examples of the fabulous cards that you too can craft.

Join us for a hands-on class “Creating Hand-Crafted Greeting Cards” Pat will teach you how to design and create your own cards for all occasions. Different types of paper, adhesives, embellishments and tools will be discussed, and you will learn how to design, emboss and use die cuts to make beautiful, unique cards. Each participant will make three cards to take home. Pat will provide all the necessary tools.

Pat has been making cards for over three years and has taken several classes. She sells her cards at a local coffee shop as well as arts and crafts events, and enjoys sending them to family and friends.

Friday, December 30, 10:00 a.m. at Pat’s home
8436 Black Stallion Place, Vienna, VA 22182
Cost for this session is a $10.00 donation to BNC
RSVP to Pat: pbritz12@aol.com

Class is limited to 8 people
We are sorry to have to report the passing of Steve Kamen, beloved husband of our member, Linda Kamen. The funeral was held at Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, with burial at King David cemetery. Family and friends then gathered at the home of Wendy and Howard Kamen in Annandale, for a meal of condolence. Our thoughts are with our dear friend Linda Kamen.

A Way to Support the Good Works of Brandeis: The Book Fund

Please help the Brandeis Library purchase a Learned Research Journal by buying one of the “LRJ” note-cards listed below to use as a gift for birthdays, anniversaries, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, etc. or to memorialize. Your purchase of a Tribute Card also benefits the library. Call Judy Yavner (703-527-0947) or use the following form. Received from:

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In honor or memory of: (circle one)

________________________________________________________ (Name)

Send notification to: __________________________________________ (Name)

________________________________________________________ (Address)

________________________________________________________ (City, State, ZiP)

Check enclosed, made out to BNC

Send to: Judy Yavner, 1530 Key Blvd, #416, Arlington, VA 22209
The deadline for items to be included in the next newsletter is January 5th. Please send material to Atara Aharonovitz at atara1175@gmail.com or call 201-563-7071.

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