Last Chance...
Don't Sit This One Out

With only weeks to go, the Brandeis University National Women's Committee campaign to endow a chair for the University Librarian is climbing toward its goal of $2.5 million. Don't sit on the sidelines as we race to the finish—just $330,000 to go.

At the heart of the Brandeis success story are the Libraries, built from the ground up, book by book, with the invaluable support of thousands of donors like you.

When the Campaign reaches its goal, the Brandeis Libraries will join the ranks of Harvard, Johns Hopkins, the University of Illinois and a handful of other prestigious universities that have funded a chair for this important position.

Your gift today will help us fulfill our promises for tomorrow.

Gifts may be made in cash, with appreciated stock or with MasterCard, Visa or American Express and must be finalized by March 15, 2000 in order to be included in recognition programs.

Call toll free 1-888-TO-BUNWC (1-888-862-8692) for additional information.

Heller Graduate School at 40:
Focus on the Working Poor

As the American economy mints new millionaires daily, one group continues to be left behind: the working poor. The Heller Graduate School at Brandeis University marked its 40th anniversary in November with a symposium dedicated to these invisible millions of men and women who are working hard and playing by the rules, yet are barely able to make ends meet.

"For 40 years, The Heller School has focused on those who are socially excluded — the people who need help in order to help themselves," Heller School Dean Jack Shonkoff told the audience of 400. "Two generations of leaders in social policy and health and human services have used their Heller education to work more effectively for social justice."

"Since the overhaul of welfare, the problems of the poor and the problems of the working poor have become one and the same," Robert Reich, the former labor secretary and current University Professor and Maurice B. Hexter Professor of Social and Economic Policy at The Heller School told the many Heller alumni and others in attendance.

"These are the invisible people in our economy — the laundry workers, hotel workers, custodians, hospital

Heller in Brief

1200 Heller alumni work as social welfare managers, analysts, and top-level policymakers in 46 states and 19 countries.

Heller alumni are represented in all levels of government, including the White House and state houses and they direct countless human service agencies.

Teaching the next generation, they include one college president, 17 deans, and faculty members at the nation's top institutions of higher education.

While The Heller School is distinctive in its commitment to the least powerful members of society — the poor, the elderly, children and individuals with disabilities — the school is also known for the academic excellence

Continued on page 2
Brandeis University’s National Center on Women & Aging (NCWA) has documented for the first time the enormous price those women and older adults pay in their everyday lives. Women pay in lost wages, lost Social Security and pension contributions due to time off, and reduced opportunities for promotions, training, and desirable job assignments.

The study will provide much-needed hard evidence to policymakers and government officials to enact subsidies or tax credits that compensate with losses suffered by carers and hopefully employers to offer caring workers flexible schedules or paid leave.

The average direct and indirect cost to the study’s 55 subjects was $659,000 over the time they provided care. The average length of caregiving was eight years; one in three provided care for more than a decade. Three-quarters of caregivers are women, usually daughters or daughters-in-law. Among caregivers employed outside the home, five in six were forced to quit, retire prematurely, cut back their work hours, take sick time, vacation time, or a leave of absence from their jobs.

“By honoring their financial obligations to elderly relatives, caregivers may impair their own long-term financial health,” says NCWA Executive Director Phyllis Muttschiler. “This study reveals the true costs to caregivers of providing assistance, which have long been trivialized.” Muttschiler says greater recognition of the costs by policymakers and employers could do much to ease the strain.

MetLife’s Mature Market Institute, funded the research, conducted in conjunction with the National Alliance for Caregiving. The National Center on Women & Aging, established in 1995 at the Heller School, brings national attention to issues affecting women at midlife and beyond.

Want to Live Longer? Try Volunteering

People who volunteered at least 40 hours per year were more likely to be alive 7 1/2 years later than those who did not volunteer, according to a University of Michigan study. Researchers studied more than 1000 people age 62 and older.

In another study conducted by Civic Ventures, a public-policy group in San Francisco that encourages older people to work with charities, respondents aged 50 to 75 said that volunteering and community service are among their top priorities during retirement, but the study found that relatively few currently participate in such activities regularly.

Commenting on the study, The Chronicle of Philanthropy reported that the most likely to volunteer are women and people with college educations. The most popular forms of volunteering cited were raising money, helping old people, and working with children and young people.

Half of those polled in the survey said that they considered helping non-profit organizations to be “fairly important” or “very important” in their retirement years, second only to traveling. About three-quarters of those interviewed currently volunteer, organizations to be “fairly important” or “very important” in their retirement years.

“Because these brain images showed that older and younger people depend upon very different brain circuits to remember what they’ve just seen,” Sekuler reported. The researchers now plan to probe the brain’s normal limits of recognition, and search for ways to push those limits through training.
Goldie Moss calls her recent 90th birthday the “most celebrated” of her life and “the most meaningful.” Although she has many pictures taken with famous people and she is often mistaken for a student, Moss says, “My name has been on a lot of plaques and awards from a lifetime of service to my community, my daughter’s recent gift of a Library Collection to the Brandeis Libraries in her honor means the most.

To mark the milestone Judy Moss Stuart established the Goldie Moss Library Collection in Twentieth Century American History and Culture because the Brandeis Libraries have some first editions are already worth several thousand dollars. Skyrocketing prices for first editions of classics such as Jack Kerouac’s On the Road, Ulysses by James Joyce, and Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird have fostered speculation in newer books, especially first editions printed within the last five years that are still in pristine condition and preferentially signed by the author.

Frank McCourt’s 1996 memoir Angela’s Ashes, for instance, sells on the Internet for $500 and Charles Frazier’s Cold Mountain, for a similar amount. Both books became best sellers after small first print runs. If the book is made into a hit movie, it is worth even more. If the movie version fails, it can actually hurt the value of the book.

This unpredictable hypermodern collecting is just one aspect of the rare and used book business, which nets the National Women’s Committee (NWC) almost half a million dollars annually for the Brandeis Libraries through chapter sales and its rare book catalog. A complete list of titles can be found on the Internet at www.abebooks.com under the listing NWC Book Business. More than 300 books have been donated by NWC members and friends to the catalog since its inception, selling at $35-$700. Those trying to determine if they have books appropriate for the catalog or a chapter rare book auction can follow some simple guidelines. Following are the top reasons a book may be collectible:

• It is bound in leather or has beautiful decorated cloth boards.
• It is signed or inscribed to a well-known person by an author and/or illustrator.
• It is an illustrated book about art, antiques, architecture, photography, natural history, etc.
• It is an early edition of collected subjects (military unit history, slavery, freemasonry, etc.)
• It is a first edition novel of a collected author or the author’s first book with dust jacket.
• It has one or more of the above and is in at least Very Good condition.

The condition of a book is critical to its value. In order for a book to be considered collectible, it should fall into one of these three standard categories of condition: mint — as new/never read/fine—no defect, yet not quite as fresh as a new book; very good — shows some general shelf wear such as rubbing, slight fading or a frayed dustjacket.

Some collectible authors include Margaret Atwood, Jane Austen, James Baldwin, Saul Bellow, Albert Camus, Raymond Chandler, Agatha Christie, Pat Conroy, Michael Crichton, Louise Erdrich, Ian Fleming, Dick Francis, Sue Grafton, John Grahm, Stephen King, Toni Morrison, Robert Parker, and Anne Rice.

Collected illustrators include J.J. Audubon, Aubrey Beardsley, M.W. Boebrink, Margaret Bourke-White, Kate Greenaway, Rockwell Kent, Maxfield Parrish, Arthur Rackham, Norman Rockwell, Maurice Sendak, and N.C. Wyeth.

For questions or additional information on book offerings, please contact the Brandeis Libraries or the Campaign for the 21st Century.

Join us on May 31 through June 4. Tour the libraries, and see old friends and make new ones. Talk with Brandeis faculty. And help plan for the 21st Century.

We want to hear from you.
Write to: Letters, Brandeis University National Women’s Committee, M S 132, Waltham, MA 02454-9110 or email us at buncw@brandeis.edu.
Please include your name, chapter, and city/town in which you live.

Correction — Thanks a Thousand
We apologize for the omission of the names of Joan Lobb and Marcia J. Fuchsberg Auster ’67 from the “Thanks a Thousand” list of major donors in the fall issue of Inspirit. In addition, the Altman Foundation should have been listed as The Jack and Sylvia Altman Foundation. We would also like to clarify that the list included only the names of those who made gifts to Brandes, the Brandeis Libraries or the Campaign for the University Librarian Chair during fiscal year 1999.
The Turn of Another Century

Immigration

In the century’s first decade nine million people came to America from abroad, about the entire population of the country in 1820. Very few spoke English. New York had more Italians than Rome, more Jews than Warsaw, more Irish than Dublin and more blacks than any city in the world. Most of these immigrants took up residence in American cities ill equipped to accommodate them. Jacob Riis estimated, in How the Other Half Lives (1890), that by the nineties New York’s Lower East Side had almost twice as many people per square mile as Dickens’s London, making it perhaps the worst slum in the history of the Western world.

Ronald Sanders says in his seminal work on Jewish immigration to America, Shores of Refuge, during the last decade of the nineteenth century, the Lower East Side of New York took on a character that made its way into American folklore. To the social reformer, it was a place of filth, squalor, overcrowding, and intolerable conditions. For others, it was the home of a culture more vital than any they saw elsewhere in American life. Fortunately for these European Jews, the sanitary and dietary practices prescribed by their religion gave them some protection against disease.

Indeed, in a 1902 booklet in the Library’s collection, “Health and Sanitation of the Immigrant Jewish Population of New York,” Herbert Berkwich pointed out that although references to unsanitary surroundings at the turn of the century often pointed to the Lower East Side as an extreme example, he maintained that conditions were not as bad as usually portrayed.

The adjustment to life in America, however, was trying. “It was a tremendous struggle,” says Larry Fuchs, the Meyer and Walter Jeffe Professor of American Civilization and Politics at Brandeis and one of the nation’s foremost scholars on immigration. “It was particularly difficult for the fathers, because there was so much emphasis on making a living.” Harold Evans relates in his book American Century: “The Jews in eastern Europe had started to call America goldeneh medina (the golden country), but the transition was wrenching. Loved ones and homes abandoned, the countryside exchanged for a thrusting industrial culture. An immigrant guidebook of 1890 on surviving in the United States is urgent in its advice:

‘Hold fast, this is most necessary in America. Forget your customs, and your ideals. Select a goal and pursue it with all your might... You will experience a bad time, but sooner or later you will achieve your goal. If you are neglectful, beware the wheel of fortune turns fast. You will lose your grip and be lost. A bit of advice for you: Do not take a moment’s rest. Run... A final virtue is needed in America — called cheek... Do not say, I cannot, I do not know.’

Despite the hardships, life was not all gloom and doom. David George Plotkin had this to say about the Lower East Side in his charming poem “Orchard Street,” which is part of the Brandeis microfilm collection:

“No peonies or gillyflowers can grow
In barren sands or steaming slums, and so
God planted girls upon the paves to bring
The balm of beauty to our sorrowing.”

Stephen S. Wise

The son of a rabbi, Wise realized his childhood dream of following in his father’s footsteps when he was ordained in 1893. He became rabbi of Temple Beth Israel in Portland, Oregon, where, for six years he pioneered in interfaith cooperation, social service, and civic leadership. He also served as unpaid commissioner of child labor for Oregon while living there.

Wise returned to New York in 1907 and founded the Free Synagogue, based on freedom of pulpit, not subject to control by a board of trustees, and free pews to all without fixed dues. He used his pulpit to criticize social ills and created an extensive program of social welfare.

The Stephen S. Wise Family Papers Collection sheds light on this remarkable man’s relationship with members of his family. Wise’s public papers are available in the Brandeis Libraries in microform.

Wise acted as an important intermediary to President Woodrow Wilson when he helped formulate the text of the Balfour Declaration of 1917 with Louis D. Brandeis and Felix Frankfurter. (The Balfour Declaration approved the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine, then controlled by the British.) He spoke on behalf of Zionist aspirations in Palestine at the Versailles Peace Conference of 1918-19, where he also pleaded for the cause of the Armenian people.

He was also one of the first to warn of the dangers of Nazism and presented the Jewish cause to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the U.S. State Department. A social liberal, Wise pleaded for clemency and justice on behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti in 1927 and battled for the rights of workers to organize. He even exposed corruption in New York City and succeeded in forcing the resignation of the mayor in 1932 when he helped lead the City Affairs Committee.

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At the dawn of a new century, join us for a tour of the rich collections in the Brandeis Libraries as we look back at some of the events and people that shaped the last century. In 1900 waves of desperate immigrants were risking all to seek a new life in America. Political turmoil and violence rocked parts of Europe, Jews throughout the world rallied for a homeland and Zionism took root. New-fangled machines rolled off assembly lines in an industrial revolution that brought unheard of conveniences to the common man. The Brandeis collections give students and scholars insight into this tumultuous time.

The Collections: Alfred Dreyfus Trial and Leo Frank Trial

Two historic events, which took place an ocean apart but with much in common, are fully documented in the Brandeis Library's Special Collections. In 1894 army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted on a charge of treason in a spectacular miscarriage of justice that came to be known as the Dreyfus Affair and permanently altered the political landscape in France. The same anti-Semitism that sparked the Dreyfus Affair led to the unfair conviction and later lynching of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory superintendent in Atlanta, Georgia. The Frank Collection provides a moving portrait of a good and gentle man caught in a firestorm of hate and prejudice that cost him his life.

Alfred Dreyfus

Captain Alfred Dreyfus was accused of having written an anonymous document, addressed to the German military attaché in Paris, revealing French military secrets. Upon discovery of the document in the German embassy, suspicion fell on Dreyfus, an Alsatian Jew. He was court-martialed, sentenced to life imprisonment, and shipped off to Devil's Island.

When Lieutenant Colonel George Picquart, the head of French military intelligence, later uncovered evidence implicating another officer, Picquart was a lamed and dismissed from the service. Relatives and supporters of Dreyfus also uncovered evidence, forcing the army to court-martial the newly accused. He was promptly acquitted. After an appeal by Dreyfus, the French Supreme Court of Appeal ordered a new trial in 1899, but Dreyfus was found guilty a second time.

Leo Frank

Dreyfus's imprisonment, an eloquent letter to the editor of The Tribune, a Boston newspaper, read:

"I am putting up a good fight, for I am innocent of this horrible charge, and the world will some day know it,"

Leo Frank wrote a supporter on April 29, 1913 from his cell at the state prison at Milledgeville, Georgia. He had been sentenced to death for the murder of a young girl employed at the National Pencil Factory in Atlanta where he had worked as a superintendent.

A junior, Jim Conley, a suspect in the killing, accused Leo Frank of the murder of 12-year-old Mary Phagan who was found in the factory furnace room, strangled to death in April, 1913. Witnesses swore — falsely it was later proved — that Frank was a sexual deviant. Leo Frank was found guilty on circumstantial evidence and sentenced to hang. A mob atmosphere surrounding the trial erupted against "the Jew."

The letter denigrating his innocence and acknowledging the support of a stranger from Farrill, Alabama, is one of scores of original handwritten cards and letters in the Leo Frank Collection in the Brandeis Libraries, including heartbreaking correspondence between him and his wife Lucille Frank, often beginning with "dear honey" and ending with "your sweetheart." Shortly after his conviction he wrote her requesting "5 sets of underwear and 6 pairs of socks — not silk."

Frank was lynched by an anti-Semitic mob that broke into the prison where he was incarcerated, enraged by the commutation of Frank's death sentence by Georgia Governor John H. Slaton. It would be 71 years before the State of Georgia declared to the world Frank's innocence when it officially pardoned him in 1986.

The Brandeis collection includes letters of support to the family and the governor from Pittsburgh, Chicago, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Indiana, and Canada. Petitions filled with signatures on behalf of Frank's pardon were sent to the governor from Alaska, Kentucky, and places in between.

After Governor Slaton's unpopular decision to commute Frank's death sentence to life imprisonment, an eloquent letter to the editor of The Tribune, a Boston newspaper, read:

"Governor Slaton's action in commuting the sentence of Leo Frank is a noble expression of the traditions of America and of her bar. It showed scrupulous regard for the rights of the individual citizen, a love of justice, moral courage and high intelligence."

Louis D. Brandeis

Move Over, Harry Potter

Children's books such as the Harry Potter series making the best-seller list may seem like a phenomenon that could happen only in this day of hyper-marketing. But about 100 years ago another children's book, Francis Hodgson Burnett's Little Lord Fauntleroy took the world by storm.

 Copies flew out of bookstores, including a lovely first edition now residing in the Brandeis Libraries. The story changed children's fashions almost overnight. Parents loved the velvet, satin and lace knicker suits the charming little lord wore in the book, even if their children did not. The book's popularity marked the birth of clothing designed specifically for children.

Rare Books Span the Centuries

Among the many rare and beautiful books in the Brandeis Libraries's Special Collections are these selections, published over the centuries.

1500

1600
Bible. O.T. Lamentations. Hebrew. Published in Venice, Zanetti, 1600. Hebrew commentary on Lamentations by Samuel Uzeda, with the Hebrew text of Lamentations interspersed.

1700
Histoire du Vieux et du Nouveau Testament. Published in Amsterdam, P. Mortier, 1700. Two large volumes with many engraved plates.

1800

1900

Donations to the National Women's Committee Library Benefactor Fund provide for rare and choice acquisitions.
Twenty-one former presidents of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter were honored recently at the largest event ever held by the chapter, a brunch to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Women’s Committee. A capacity crowd heard the presidents chronicle the history of the chapter.

Neither wind, nor rain, nor soggy fairways kept the 40 men and women of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, including chapter President Muriel Eiduson from joining the chapter’s First Annual Golf Tournament to raise money for the Brandeis Libraries. The skies cleared to a brilliant blue when the first foursome teed off. The event was organized by members Sid Eiduson, Joe Letvin, and Gordon Green.

KUDOS TO

Essex County, NJ for a study group luncheon featuring author Belva Plain who spoke about her latest and seventeenth book, Fortune’s Hand, and her earlier involvement with the chapter as a vice president. She declined the presidency because she was writing her first novel Evergreen at the time.

Gotham, NY for raising $4,000 for the Library Trust Endowment during a luncheon at the home of former National Women’s Committee President Marsha Stoller. The program included a speaker from the Manhattan Theatre Club.

Meadowbrook, NJ for its unusual study group meeting. “Timely Events in Judaism.” Performer Joyce Kahn sang and played guitar while sharing anecdotal background information about composers and the origins of songs. The event concluded with a sing-a-long.

The Concordia, New Jersey, Chapter claims members in one out of every three households in its retirement community. More than half of them gathered in September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brandeis and the National Women’s Committee. This committee of 16 spent a year planning the event which featured Dr. Michael Blumenthal, formerly secretary of the treasury, president of Bendix Corporation and chairman and CEO of the Unisys Corporation, and currently head of the Berlin Jewish Museum. Renowned artist Peter Max also helped the chapter celebrate with the donation of a painting over poster entitled “Israel’s 50th Anniversary.” The Chapter has given the artwork to the University.

Renowned pop artist James Rosenquist (center) was the guest of honor at a benefit for the Librarian Chair Campaign, sponsored by the New England Region at the Rose Art Museum on the Brandeis campus. His work is part of the permanent collection of the museum. Pictured with Rosenquist are event co-chairs Ellie Shuman (left) and Kay Stein, MA ’72.

This group from the New England Region enjoyed a five-day trip to the spectacular Venetian Resort Hotel in Las Vegas, a fund raiser for the Brandeis Libraries. The program included guest speakers Gerald R. Molen, co-producer of the film “Schindler’s List,” and Edythe Katz Yardhever who spoke on the history of the Jews in Nevada. The trip was organized by New England Region President Gloria Field and Marilyn Davis, co-president of the Norfolk/Sharon, MA Chapter.

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Brandeis Students: Drawing the Best from Coast to Coast

Matthew Kirschen ’00
Fullerton, California

Matt Kirschen may be the first Brandeis student to have taken a “year abroad” in a Brandeis laboratory. A neuroscience major who had all but finalized plans to spend his junior year conducting research in laboratories in Israel and Australia, Kirschen had made himself so indispensable to a neuroscience project focusing on syphilis that Michael Kahana, assistant professor of psychology in the Center for Complex Systems, asked him to stay on with the project full-time.

The research team’s front man at Boston’s Children’s Hospital, Kirschen put in 14-hour days teaching young people seven to 23 years old how to play video games in the name of science. They were at the hospital to study neurosurgery to quell severe epileptic seizures. The games were a tool that allowed the researchers to test the emotional memory in the brain. The successful results offer hope for better treatments for epilepsy, which affects some 4 million Americans.

While the Brandeis team’s young emissary was at first regarded as a curiosity by the skeletal doctors and nurses at Children’s, he soon became a respected figure in the hospital’s halls. He was eventually included in neurosurgeons’ pre-operative sessions and authored a paper on the research published in the prestigious journal Nature.

The ever-adaptable Kirschen entered Brandeis as a physics major, but switched to neuroscience shortly after meeting Michael Kahana in the kosher hamburger line at a campus picnic. His decision to stay home and in turn leave Brandeis should also be very beneficial to his future plans to pursue an M.D.-Ph.D. “My experiences at Brandeis and Children’s have been awesome,” he says. “I have learned firsthand the value of integrating scientific and clinical research.”

Caryn Lederer ’00
Williamburg, Virginia

Caryn Lederer ’00 has made the most of her Brandeis experience, both inside and outside the classroom. As a Schiff Undergraduate Fellow linked with a faculty mentor for a close-up perspective on the daily life of a university professor, she helped American studies professor Mary Davis revise the syllabus for her legal studies course “Law and Letters in American Culture: Rape and the Written Word.” She is acting as a teaching assistant for the course this semester and is developing the curriculum for a course on the legal issues of reproductive rights.

An American studies major who will also complete the legal studies and women’s studies programs, Lederer is writing her senior thesis on criminal transmission of HIV states. Not one to bury her head in her books, she has pursued her academic interests in campus activities as well. She is the co-coordinator of the Student Sexuality Information Service, a student-run counseling and referral service open about 40 hours per week. She is also serving her fourth year on the board of the Women’s Resource Center and her third year on the University Board on Student Conduct. She was involved during her second year at Brandeis in creating a sexual misconduct policy for the University.

Lederer plans to study law and eventually enter the realm of public policy work after her graduation this year from Brandeis.

A Schiff Undergraduate Fellow, Caryn Lederer ’00 is a teaching assistant for a legal studies course at Brandeis.

Wendi Adelson ’01
Coral Springs, Florida

Wendi Adelson ’01, a 1999 Ethics and Co-existence Student Fellow at Brandeis, has been working for peace and social justice since she was in the eighth grade. That was the year she launched a one-girl crusade to provide educational materials to the poverty day care centers of Dare and Brevard Counties in South Florida. She invested $200 of her savings in stationery and went to work soliciting cash and material donations from many prominent citizens and setting local officials to serve on her “board.” Upon her high school graduation she left behind a legacy of $18,000 in funds raised and many happy memories among the children she visited and played with every week.

Now a third-year American studies major with a peace and conflict studies minor, Adelson is eying a future in international human rights law. As part of her fellowship, which provides undergraduates with integrated course work and field work related to issues of ethics and social justice in a global context, she spent last summer working to advance human rights in Argentina. Living with a family in Buenos Aires, she did office and translation work for a human rights organization.

Adelson plans to return to Argentina for a particularly meaningful project this summer: the annual protest march in northern Argentina to spread the word about the country’s “dirty war.” About the experience, she says, “I feel I did far less for them than they did for me.”

During the day for the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, an organization of mothers and grandmothers of the “disappeared” in Argentina. Nights she translated documents relating to the elimination of third-world debt for Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel. She worked at a camp for impoverished or abused children on Saturdays. At one point during her stay she joined the mothers for a 30-hour bus ride and seven-kilometer protest march in northern Argentina to spread the word about the country’s “dirty war.” About the experience, she says, “I feel I did far less for them than they did for me.”

A Schiff Undergraduate Fellow, Wendi Adelson ’01 is a teaching assistant for a legal studies course at Brandeis.

Latishya Steele ’01
Brooklyn, New York

A biology and neuroscience major, Latishya Steele ’01 has developed a passion for dance at Brandeis.

Latishya Steele ’01 has been crazy about science since she discovered a pig in seventh grade anatomy class. “I love it. I really do,” she recalls, “but I love it.” She pursued her passion over the next few years by working on a research project in math and writing a paper on the genetics of neurological disorders such as Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s in the future. A McNair Scholar, Steele plans to work to a lab on campus this summer and will present her research findings to fellow McNair Scholars as a requirement of that program. The McNair Scholars Program, which provides undergraduates with socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds to pursue doctoral studies and consider careers in academia.

Science is not Steele’s whole life at Brandeis, however. A multi-cultural enthusiast, she is active in the Brandeis Black Student Organization, the Caribbean Connection, and BUHO, a group devoted to educating the Brandeis community about Hawaiian culture and lifestyle. She will join a team of ten students to organize Orientation 2000 and will coordinate the International Program. “You have to accept that, but perhaps her most daring pursuit at Brandeis has been dancing, something she had never done before. Steele fills every kind of dance imaginable — tap, modern, lyrical, Israeli, African, South Asian, folk, and modern Indian. She spends at least eight hours per week on this new hobby, dancing with a group of friends every Thursday night. “I am enjoying my time at Brandeis,” Steele says. “Among other things, I have learned to open myself up to new experiences and to take chances that I might not have otherwise attempted.”

When his plane was stuck on the ground in Washington, Thomas Friedman ’75, foreign affairs correspondent for The New York Times and author of a new book on globalization, The Lexus and the Olive Tree, delivered his talk from the plane while the audience of 200 sat at rapt attention.

Northern Virginia for a particularly riveting Study Group Showcase, once postponed due to hurricane Floyd. A surprise guest was Stephanie Weinberg, class of ’95 and daughter of member Nadine Weinberg. Stephanie was on her way to Oxford University to earn her master’s degree in the history of medicine, including bubonic plague, smallpox and malaria. She also plans to attend medical school.

San Antonio for contributing books from its book sale to the Beldon Library on the new Jewish-Campus of San Antonio.

San Diego on its “Critics Corner” with several leading local theatre critics. Program Vice President Marsha Schwartz, coordinator of the Performing Arts, and Delores Cohen and Alice Alperin organized and ran the very successful event.

San Fernando Valley, CA for its fifth annual Children’s Book Fair with tea with illustrator Cathy Hoffman, Peter Utterback, Andrew and April Halpern Wayland who entertained with their fiddle as well as stories.

Tucson for another great year, including a game day, handwritten mystery night, gala luncheon in support of the University Librarian Chair Campaign, and a trip.

The Boston Chapter’s new Men’s Group which got off to a great start with the help of guest speaker Jonathan Haidt, the executive vice president of the New England Patriots.

And this from New York: When former national presidents Marsha Stoller and Barbara Miller attended a breakfast wreathing their chair grill, Hillary Clinton recognized them immediately from the National Women’s Committee’s visit to the White House. “These are Brandeis women,” Mrs. Clinton told her assistant. “They get things done!”

Winter 2000
What's new, what's hot, and anything else you want to know about Brandeis, the Libraries, or the National Women's Committee is now on the Internet at three comprehensive and interconnected websites.

The Brandeis University Home Page at www.brandeis.edu contains full press releases on the University's latest research developments, events, and programs, a calendar, and facts and figures about Brandeis. It also includes news of Spingold Theatre productions, Rose Art Gallery exhibits, the Lydian String Quartet performances, and athletic events, as well as alumni information. The entire contents of the Brandeis Reporter, Brandeis Review, the Justice, and a new publication on science, the Catalyst, are on-line. These require Adobe Reader which can be downloaded free of charge directly from the website.

The viewer can even walk through on-line exhibits from the University Archives or listen to a National Public Radio segment on two Brandeis students, an Israeli Arab and an Israeli Jew who host a radio show designed to promote peace and coexistence. Both of these also require software that can be downloaded directly from the website.

The Library website, www.library.brandeis.edu, which can be accessed through the Brandeis site, features many of the Special Collections at Brandeis as well as the full library catalog and extensive guides for conducting research on the Internet or in the stacks.

The newest addition to this trio, www.brandeis.edu/bunwc, contains information about National Women's Committee membership, study groups, faculty speakers, book sales and Imprint (needs Adobe Reader). The membership section includes chapters and their locations as well as contact information for those wishing to join. "Study with the Best" is included in its entirety, listing the most current Brandeis faculty-authored study groups — everything from history, literature, and drama to women's and health issues and American pop culture.

Book sales and chapter events throughout the country are included, as well as a link to the Rare Book Catalog. A fundraising section is under construction. The section will outline the many ways to give to the Brandeis Libraries and will feature full-color reproductions of all Book Fund materials.

All three websites are updated regularly. For more information, email the National Women's Committee at bunwc@brandeis.edu.

Winter 2000