Banner Year for Brandeis

NWC Makes Record $8.3 Million Gift

The National Women’s Committee (NWC) celebrated its 55-year partnership with Brandeis University in a big way in fiscal year 2004 (FY04), raising a record $8.3 million for the University and its Libraries and exceeding its goal for the year. Successful chapter events, generous individual gifts, several large bequests, and the excellent results of the 55th Anniversary Fund all contributed to the most successful fund raising year in the organization’s history.

“Our 55th Fund, chaired by our new president, Joyce Krasnow (Los Angeles Chapter), was a spectacular success,” reported former president Carol Kern (Phoenix). “Thanks to Joyce and the total commitment of our members and chapters, it exceeded its goal of $550,000, bringing in $665,000, including planned gifts. These endowed funds will support technology in the Brandeis Libraries and bring to $2.7 million the total library technology endowment.” NWC has pledged to raise $5 million for library technology endowment for the Campaign for Brandeis.

Special chapter events also helped boost NWC’s gift to the University. Chapters which held events to honor long-time members included Central Westchester, NY for Hannelies Guggenheim, Miami for Belle Jurkowitz ’55, Corpus Christi for Elizabeth Susser, and Los Angeles for Evelyn Finkelstein. These events combined raised almost $100,000.

Many donors created a legacy with bequests, an important part of the National Women’s Committee’s gift to Brandeis. Bequests accounted for $5.5 million of FY04’s total gift of $8.3 million.

The gift to Brandeis of $8,316,587 brings to more than $95 million the total raised by the National Women’s Committee for the University and its Libraries since its founding in 1948. More than $1.6 million of the National Women’s Committee gift went to the Libraries. In addition, NWC members and friends gave more than $3.4 million directly to the University, of which $20,370 was for the Libraries. An additional $3,159,030 came from planned gifts.

Outgoing President Carol Kern presents the National Women’s Committee’s record gift to Brandeis University President Jehuda Reinharz.
Joyce Krasnow Elected NWC President

Joyce Krasnow of the Los Angeles Chapter has been elected president of the Brandeis University National Women’s Committee (NWC) for a two-year term. A member for 25 years, she originally joined the San Fernando Valley Chapter in 1988 and later moved to the Los Angeles Chapter. She served as president in Los Angeles from 1990-92, as president of the Western Region from 1997-99, and as a national vice president from 2000-02.

She has also chaired the following leadership and fund raising programs: Leadership Interns, Journal Guarantor, Library Collections, and, most recently, the very successful 55th Anniversary Fund to support technology in the Brandeis Libraries. She was named a President’s Councillor by Brandeis in recognition of her long and committed involvement with NWC and the University. As president of NWC, she will serve on the Brandeis University Board of Trustees.

“I have visions of enriching lives and strengthening our legacy of being the largest and most successful friends-of-a-library group in the world,” Krasnow said of her new position. “I would like to see us raise in each and every member passion for our mission, motivating them to enlarge and enhance our membership, and to become actively involved in filling our coffers to overflowing, fulfilling and exceeding our obligation to the University Campaign.”

The new president was the founder and CEO of Visual Image Perceptions. She has also been active in her temple and community. She is a board member of the Stephen W. Wise Temple in Los Angeles and has done volunteer work for many organizations, including the Preservation Society in Vail, Colorado, the Jewish Federation Lion of Judah Campaign, and Friends of the Joffrey Ballet.

A passionate mountain climber and lover of “the great outdoors,” Krasnow has climbed to the base camp of Mt. Everest and to 18,700 feet in the Himalayas. She started 11 years ago after a bad accident threatened to limit her ability to walk. She has also run the Los Angeles Marathon. In addition to her athletic endeavors, she has written a children’s book which tells, in part, the story of her mentally- and physically-challenged grandson.

She resides in both Los Angeles and Vail, Colorado, with her husband Paul. The Krasnows have three adult children: Marc, a 1983 graduate of Brandeis, Eric, and Genessa, and four grandchildren.

New Officers

Elected vice presidents: Elaine Bernstein, Aventura/Hollywood, FL; Sue Karp, Phoenix; Dr. Dorothy Pierce, Boca Raton; Barbara Sherer, Seattle; Eleanor Shuman, Greater Boston; and Jill Swiler, Las Vegas. Bernice Smilowitz, Essex County, NJ, was elected treasurer.

Library Benfactor Offers New Pin

More than a dozen National Women’s Committee (NWC) members immediately became “Library Benefactors” during the NWC’s Conference in June when they saw the beautiful new gold vermeil limited-edition pin available to donors who make gifts of $1,500 or more to the Library Benefactor Fund.

As in all of her recent work, the sculptor Lindley Briggs captures in her exquisite pin the stylized heads of a man and a woman, evocative of the classical Olympian gods and goddesses, while reflecting a contemporary sensibility. The pin was created exclusively for the National Women’s Committee.

The Benefactor program has provided more than $1.5 million for rare and choice library acquisitions since its inception in 1971, including the personal papers of great leaders, electronic archives, rare manuscripts, costly facsimiles, government documents, and microfilm versions of very rare books. Recent acquisitions include the Black Abolitionist Papers microfilm series, a rich resource for the study of antebellum America; the 1893 Kelmscott Press edition of William Shakespeare’s poems; and Birobidgezhan, a microfiche collection on the “Jewish Autonomous Region” set up by the Soviet government in 1934 as an alternative to Palestine.

For information on the Benefactor program and how to obtain the new pin, contact Janice Fineman at 781-736-4179 (fineman@brandeis.edu).
This year marked a decade of my presidency at Brandeis. It seems like a moment. This moment in time is an exceptional one for Brandeis. Founded in 1948, in a time of world crisis, Brandeis has grown in stature and prominence to serve as a leader in the liberal arts and sciences. At a moment in our history that cries out for leadership, Brandeis is educating today’s best scholars and professionals. None of this would be possible if donors and friends like the National Women’s Committee had failed to grasp the University’s uniquely ambitious mission, or flagged in supporting it along the way.

I want to extend my deep appreciation to the National Women’s Committee. Your long partnership with Brandeis has made invaluable contributions to our fundraising efforts. As of the June 30 close of the fiscal year 2004, the University raised more than $60 million in cash gifts, including $8.3 million from the National Women’s Committee. Achieving this success in these turbulent times is a testament to the University’s mission and the enduring commitment of BUNWC.

In particular, it is critical that we continue to fund all aspects of the Brandeis learning experience, including our Libraries, which are the heart of Brandeis. We must provide all of the essential resources that enable students to experience the pleasures of learning, awakening in them the passion to join with faculty and fellow students in a search for insight and understanding.

This has been a year of extraordinary accomplishments. I would like to share just a few of the most recent: The National Scientific Council at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management has been awarded a $750,000 grant from The MacArthur Foundation to lead a major initiative on early childhood development. Brandeis scientists have made groundbreaking advances in understanding how the regulations of a novel gene during the cell cycle can lead to a rare familial case of the early onset of Parkinson’s disease. Christopher Miller, professor of biochemistry and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, was awarded a 2004 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. Tobias Harris ’05 has become a 2004 Truman Scholar, winning a coveted $30,000 national scholarship awarded to undergraduate students headed for a career in government or the not-for-profit sector. And for the first time in history, a Brandeis University graduate will represent the United States at the Olympic Games. Fencer Tim Morehouse, ’00, is a member of the current U.S. team.

The Campaign for Brandeis is vitally important to preserving the University’s core values, which include a commitment to social justice and providing equal access to a world-class education. We in the University community are enormously grateful to those individuals who have eagerly committed themselves and their resources to helping us meet our fundraising goal of $470 million.
IN ONE’S LIFETIME we are given an opportunity to open many new doors to discovery and knowledge. I have been given that wonderful gift of adding a new dimension to my life by serving as your national president.

With my introduction to the Women’s Committee, my education began. I joined BUNWC to support Brandeis University when my son was a freshman. As I became involved in my chapter, my region, and then the national board, I began to fully realize how important the National Women’s Committee is to the university, to its students and faculty.

Each of you walked through the same door of discovery when you became a member of our prestigious organization. Hopefully you have gained an understanding of our purpose by participating in our extraordinary programming and by contributing to the achievement of our financial commitment to the university.

The Women’s Committee shares a special relationship with the University. In order to make our relationship a successful one, we must do our part by supporting our mission to the best of our ability. My wish is to have each member of every chapter involved in this endeavor.

I have set many goals for the next two years and realize that to successfully reach them, it is necessary for all of us to work together, chapters, regions, and the national organization. The next two years will bring to us the discovery of knowledge and understanding as we join together in a close working relationship. I look forward to serving you as president and to interacting with you and your chapters.
Were you there?

Conference Awards

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
Kings Point at Tamarack, FL  ■  Los Angeles
Palm Beach East  ■  San Dieguito, CA

LOUIS AWARDS
The following chapters earned the prestigious Louis Award by reaching both their financial and membership goals in fiscal year 2004.

FLORIDA REGION
Boca Raton
Brevard County
Flagler/Volusia
Gulfshore
Kings Point in Tamarac Lakes
Palm Beach East
South Dade
Tampa Bay
Trails
Treasure Coast
West End
Wycliffe

NEW ENGLAND REGION
Boston
Norfolk/Sharon

NY-NJ-SO. CT REGION
Fairfield County
Meadowbrook
Middlesex County
Northern Westchester
Rockland County
Whittingham

WESTERN REGION
Corpus Christi
Desert
Las Vegas
Los Angeles
Rancho Bernardo
San Dieguito
Seattle
Tucson

PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS
■ Boca Raton  ■  Brevard County  ■  Northern Westchester
■ Rancho Bernardo  ■  West End

VOLUNTEER AWARDS
Harriet Bial (Hills, FL) and Los Angeles members Al Gomer, Irv Kierman, and Shirley Pollock all received special volunteer awards from President Carol Kern at National Conference in recognition of their exceptional dedication to the National Women’s Committee and Brandeis.

HIGHLIGHTS
Clara Valley) at the National Women’s Committee Tribute Wall, Goldfarb Library. ■ From Washington, D.C., Leslie Weightman (left) and Joyce Pinco (right) and from San Diego, Pamela Richmond Carnot. ■ From Arizona to Florida (L-R): Joan Bream and Stacy Chulew, Phoenix, and Sunny Kincaid, Brevard County. ■ Former national presidents Barbara Ehrlich (left), Central Westchester, and Estelle Jacobs, Washington, D.C.

at Conference 2005! June 1-5, 2005
The Brandeis University National Women’s Committee thanks donors who made gifts of $1,000 or more between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004.

$1,000,000 AND ABOVE
Estate of Nora Dorn
Lewis L. Warner

$500,000 - $999,999
Estate of Frances J. Hirshenhorn
Sylvia and Arthur Howard

$100,000 - $499,999
Bette Liebling Aschkenasy
Roslyn Robbins Dienstein
Estate of Ruth Bernice Friedman
Helen B. Ibsen
Estate of Rose Israelstam
Estate of Emma R. Siskind
Bernice Smilowitz

$50,000 - $99,999
Leon and Virginia Jacobson
Estate of Frances J. Hirshenhorn
Sylvia and Arthur Howard
Estate of Myrtle Moss
Estate of Clarice Silk
Dr. Henry and Sandra M. Stein
Norman G. Weil
Pearl A. and George M. Zeltzer

$25,000 - $49,999
Meta S. and Ronald Berger
Anita Genest
Oscar and Emma Getz Charitable Fund Trust
Ruth and Arthur Ames
Anonymous
The Assael Foundation
Ellen and Simon Atlas
Rich Atwell

$10,000 - $24,999
Estate of Beatrice F. Albert
Anonymous
Esther Ross Birnbaum
Jean C. Carrus
Bernardine Daskoff
The Lee A. & Helen G. Gifford Foundation
Honorah and Jerome J. Grossbardt
Esther R. Grunwald
Josephine Hesser Trust
The David and Barbara B. Hirschhorn Foundation
Estate of Marianne J. Humbert
Maxine Kurtzman
Estate of Sally LeKowitz
Florence Liebman
Jay A. Mandel ’80 and Jeffrey M. Scheckner
Estate of E. Ruth Marinsky
Marvel S. Platoff Foundation
Rita and Daniel Price
Estate of Jean Ramer
Isabelle Samuels
Lorraine Sax
Rosalind Schacknow
Wolf Shapiro
Shirley Spero
Elyane Wecker

$5,000 - $9,999
Barbara Auerbach
Ellen Barnett
Rosette A. Besman
Maureen and Richard Durwood
Prof. Henry Fribourg
Dr. Sylvain Fribourg
Allan and Judith Yohay Glaser ’59
Arline and Sumner Alpert
Olga Holman Altman
Ruth and Arthur Ames
Anonymous
The Assael Foundation
Ellen and Simon Atlas
Rich Atwell

$1,000 - $4,999
Estate of Elsie Lisman
Livingston Foundation, Inc.
LKC Foundation
Norma Newman
Carol S. Rabinovitz ’59
Elizabeth and Jerry Susser

$500 - $999
Barbara and Theodore Alford
Arlene and Chuck Swimmer

$100 - $499
Barbara and Theodore Alford
Arlene and Chuck Swimmer

$50 - $99
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Dr. Sylvain Fribourg
Allan and Judith Yohay Glaser ’59
Irvin Jaffe Family Trust
Joyce and Paul Krasnow
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Estate of Elsie Lisman
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Arlene and Summer Alpert
Olga Holman Altman
Ruth and Arthur Ames
Anonymous
The Assael Foundation
Ellen and Simon Atlas
Rich Atwell

Fannie Woll Avrin
Dorothy and Lee Baumgarten
Joy and Martin Beer
Audrey and Bernard Bernstein
Ise Bernstein
Harriet Bial
Dr. Abby Blume Brown ’72
Pamela R. and Edward Carnot
Linda Clemson-Karp
Lois J. and Richard E. Cohen
Suzanne F. Cohen
Carol and Bernard Colby
Lee L. Dopkin Foundation, Inc.
Irene Dorfman
Daisy Driss
Claire Rosen Edes
Maidie Eisenberg
Dr. Sheldon S. Ellis
Harold Falkof
Barbara and Philip Fass
Janice and Howard Fineman
Bernice Freeman
Shirlee and Albert Gomer
Anna and Capt. Edwin G. Greenberg
Hannelies Guggenheim
Marsha and Ralph Guggenheim
Beatrice Hammer
Michael Hammerschmidt ’72 and
Gary M. Groth
Margot Heckman
Arlene Heyman
Sondra F. Homer-Warner and Oscar Warner
Hyslop Foundation
The Jaffe Foundation
Susan Eisenberg Jay ’71
Arthur and Belle Dorfman Jurkowitz ’55
Jenny Kane
Robert B. Karp
Dorothy and Jerome Katz

Carol and Allan Kern
Fern Kesselman
Joyce and Kenneth Keusch
Carol and Jack Kline
Phyllis Kornicker
Dorothy Kravetz
Marvin L. Krichman
Faylene B. Kuperman
Milton and Henrietta Kushkin Foundation
Lynette K. Lager
Miriam Waldstein Leavitt ’58
Nancy R. Levi
Philip Levine
Diana K. Lewis
Joan and Herbert Loeb
Leon S. Loeb
Susan Lorenz
Mrs. S. Arnold Lynch
Bette Manheim
Francoise Marcus
Doris S. Markow
Sheila and Harvey Medvin
Barbara and Morris Miller
Morgan Stanley Foundation
Helene Morton
Carol B. Nadel
Sandra and Gilbert Oken
Rena Joy ’56 and Bernard Olshansky ’61
Phyllis E. and Milton Perkal
Mary Ann and Harold Perper Foundation
Lois Wisch Pierce
Robert and Allen Pilnick
Roslyn and Richard Polkoff
Shirley and Martin Pollock
Esther Posin
Lois and Irving Ringel
The Frederick P. and Sandra Rose Foundation
Dr. Bernice Rosen
Sarge Korman Ruck
Gloria and Harold Savinar
Joan Schatzow
Harry L. and Eleanor A. Schick
Schiwitz Family Foundation, Inc.
Mrs. Felix Schnur
Estate of Elsa J. Schrager
Phyllis and Marvin Seidman
Judith Shafran
Cynthia and Leon Shulman
Florence Charwat Simon
Marcia Simons
Glorya Spero
Barbara Starisky
Molly Stiller
Marsha and Herbert Stoller
Sam L. Susser
Carol R. and Chuck Swimmer
Lucille Weisbein
Mollie J. Wilson
Natalie and Leonard Winer
Rudolf and Carmel Winkler
Nancy Kolack Winship
Gayle and George Wise
A. Lee Zeigler
Rochelle and David Zohn
Lois Zollo
Edith Zwick
Estate of Mary Zwirn

Thanks a Thousand
Giving Back

Henry Fribourg’s family has come a long way since the terrifying days when they raced across France to the Spanish border in June, 1940, running for their lives. Despite their success, however, they left behind more than 40 Jewish relatives who perished in Nazi death camps, including Henry’s maternal and paternal grandparents. When the French government provided a modest compensation to them recently for property confiscated from their grandparents, Henry and his siblings decided to use those funds to establish a Library Collection in Holocaust Studies at the Brandeis University Libraries. Here is their story.

As light dawned on June 17, 1940, 11-year old Henry Fribourg, his pregnant mother, and his little sister Rosette set out to escape France, just ahead of the advancing German Army. They dodged bombs and German Messerschmitts during their desperate dash for freedom, occasionally slowed by stolen spark plugs and a damaged fuel tank. With civilians pushed off the highways to make room for the desperate French Army, the Fribourgs took to remote country roads, many of them unpaved. They were caught up in continuous streams of refugees walking on the roads to get away from the German troops or riding carts heaped high with furniture, pulled by oxen, mules, horses, or donkeys.

They watched a bomb fall on a gas station they had just left and lost hours looking for someone to repair a hole in their gas tank. Henry had to throw himself in a ditch while a German fighter pilot made three runs at him while he walked along an isolated road. “I must really have been menacing to this great Teutonic warrior, who felt he had to try three times to get an aggressive 11-year old solitary boy on a narrow rural road,” he wrote in his memoir, I Gave You Life Twice: A Story of Survival, Dreams, Betrayals, and Accomplishments.

The Fribourgs made it to Spain, and then Cuba, and eventually the United States where the father of the family, a French soldier, joined them. Henry went on to earn a Ph.D., served in the Korean War, and later joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee. He also presented a copy of his newly-published memoir to the Library.

NEVER FORGET. The Fribourgs (L-R)—Henry, Rosette (Besman), and Sylvain—chose the Brandeis Libraries as a fitting place to honor their four grandparents who perished in the Holocaust. The Fribourgs established a Library Collection in Holocaust Studies with the compensation they received recently from the French government for property confiscated from their grandparents by the Germans.

Gifts of Love Build a Library

WOMAN OF THE YEAR Hannelies Guggenheim (left) of the Central Westchester, NY Chapter was honored by 175 members and friends for her 50 years of service to the Brandeis University National Women’s Committee. A Library Collection in Judaica was established in her honor. A Brandeis University President’s Councilor, she has served in many chapter and region positions and on the national board.

REMEMBERING WITH MUSIC Strains of Beethoven filled the air at the Goldfarb Library at the dedication ceremony for the Library Collection in music established by Jay Mandel ’80, in memory of his great aunt and uncle, Celia and Joseph Weinberg. Mandel (left) attended the dedication with his life partner Jeffrey M. Scheckner and their two sons, Harlan and Joshua Scheckner.
HALF CENTURY AGO,
Brandeis University was founded on the principles of social justice, non-sectarianism, academic excellence, and strong ties to the Jewish community. These values continue to prepare our students to lead the way in fostering and sustaining tomorrow’s just society.

Today, the Campaign for Brandeis: Creating Connections aims to ensure that our students have the resources, facilities, human connections, and academic opportunities to create a better world through research, scholarship, and service. The National Women’s Committee is proud to join with Brandeis in celebrating their potential.

1948 Brandeis Founding President Abram Sachar challenged the National Women’s Committee to build a world-class Library and we got the job done.

1996 The Libraries asked us to bring the collection up to one million books and we raised the funds to put those books on the shelves.

2000 To ensure that Brandeis would always have a top-quality University Librarian, we endowed a chair for that position.

Our Pledge for Tomorrow
❖ Ensure the future with a Library Technology Endowment.
❖ Advance medical research on Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, cancer, and other diseases through the support of scholarly journals.
❖ Open up a Brandeis education to all qualified students by providing additional scholarship and fellowship funds.
❖ Build critical annual support to ensure the highest quality operation of the Libraries.

Be a Part of Brandeis, too!
Join us in meeting our commitment to Brandeis. Use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution.

Campaign Goals
Library Technology Endowment $5 million
Scholarly Journals $250,000
Scholarship/Fellowship Funds $1 million
Annual Library Support $10.8 million

Brandeis would never be Brandeis, if it were not for the members of the National Women’s Committee, whose untiring efforts and long-time commitments have created a library worthy of an internationally-recognized University such as ours. We could not exist without the NWC and the support that it brings to this great institution.

ARTHUR REIS, LECTURER, CHEMISTRY, RESEARCHER, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIPS

Daniel Olinksy, magna cum laude, 2004

Daniel declares his academic experience at Brandeis “brilliant,” his teachers and all he learned and achieved “unmatched,” truly a transformative experience he could not have had without his National Women’s Committee Phoenix Chapter Endowed Scholarship. A transfer student from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Daniel made the most of the University’s small classes, close relationships with professors, and hours of wide-ranging discussion to graduate magna cum laude with a triple major in English and American literature, history, and philosophy. He plans to pursue graduate studies.

Increases in scholarship aid have allowed the University to attract more talented students, regardless of their financial resources. With tuition topping $30,000 for the coming year, three-quarters of Brandeis students will receive financial aid.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S COMMITTEE PLEDGE

Open up a Brandeis education to all qualified students by providing additional scholarship and fellowship funds.

ANNUAL LIBRARY SUPPORT

Nancy Scott, associate professor of fine arts, and Isabelle Havet ’04

“As a double major in the liberal arts, I was constantly taking advantage of the Libraries’ holdings. During my senior year, I participated in a library intensive course and also completed an honors thesis, both requiring copious amounts of library research and a willing and helpful staff. Between the collections and the great staff, I never left the Library empty handed. I don’t know how a student could succeed in college without a well-run, well-funded library like ours that offers helpful staff, classes on how to use the library, and access to all the information you need.”—Isabelle Havet ’04

“Good library research tools are changing with such rapidity that initial library classes encountered by freshmen may be antiquated to the rising seniors. Thanks to the University’s excellent instructional programs, my students and I are better able to keep an eye on the most productive way of doing research on the Web. Advanced students, such as Isabelle, who finished her thesis this spring with ‘Highest Honors’ and the Rosalind P. Levine prize in Fine Arts, emerge with a supple sense of the best of our subscription website tools, along with the traditional means of fine arts research, the catalogue raisonné and monographs.”—Nancy Scott, Associate Professor of Fine Arts

THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S COMMITTEE PLEDGE

Build critical annual support to ensure the highest quality operation of the Libraries.

JOURNALS ADVANCE MEDICAL RESEARCH

Dorothee Kern, assistant professor of biochemistry and Volen National Center for Complex Systems

Dr. Kern’s innovative work on the dynamic nature of enzymes promises to provide pivotal information leading to new drug therapies. Her application of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy to active enzymes has led to an important advance in understanding how the HIV virus hijacks human enzymes and “misuses” them for infection. She has also done important work on the molecular “switches” in bacteria that may help attack the exponentially growing problem of antibiotics resistance.

“The work of my group would not be possible without the large number of online journals Brandeis offers. The access to online journals provided by the Libraries is a key part of modern scientific research, especially with the exponential growth of knowledge and literature available today. It is the principle way we keep abreast of the work going on in the scientific community.”

THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S COMMITTEE PLEDGE

Advance medical research on Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, cancer, and other diseases through the support of scholarly journals.

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY ENDOVED FUND

Susan V. Waterzuszek, acting university librarian

The technology funded by the National Women’s Committee opens up worlds of information for our students and faculty, and frees our users from the constraints of location, time and format. Online information resources make it possible to do research at all hours of the day and night and, thanks to the National Women’s Committee, we are able to provide access to thousands of online journals, course web sites, and round-the-clock online reference services. Convenient access to our online services and resources are so important to our users that we have installed a wireless network in the Farber Library study area for laptop users.

We could not maintain this level of service, which is essential to a world-class institution like Brandeis, without the solid financial foundation of an endowment for our technology needs. We are most grateful to the National Women’s Committee for providing this essential support.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S COMMITTEE PLEDGE

Ensure the future with a Library Technology Endowment.
Brandeis Librarians now bring the Libraries and techniques for conducting research directly into the classroom through the Library Intensive Program. They are collaborating with approximately 50 professors this fall on everything from legal studies to Impressionism. Designed to explain library resources and lay out research strategies for a specific course, library intensive classes forge a personal and cyber connection between the students, the professor, the teaching librarian, and the research process that lasts throughout the course, and often beyond.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Uncovering the mysteries of 2000-year old hand tools, ritual objects, and decorative objects from Papua New Guinea, Melanesia, and Micronesia through the magic of electronic research was the assignment of the students in Javier Urcid’s Library Intensive anthropology course “Meaning and Culture.” The students were to photograph, measure, describe, and research this small group of artifacts, some with little or no provenance. Their work would become part of a digital library of information for the anthropology department.

E-Reference Librarian Laura Reiner led the way, helping the students build a course web page which included links to Brandeis Library databases (such as Social Science Abstracts, Anthropology Plus, and ArtIndex, scholarly books and journal articles) and to image collections, using Google Advanced Image Search and a number of anthropology portals.

“This whole exercise helped the students learn how to evaluate Web sites for quality information,” Reiner points out, “a key component of information literacy. It also provided them with a very rich set of links to good web sites.”

HISTORY

The mid-century black comic Moms Mabley; Deborah Sampson, the first known woman soldier in the American Revolution; and Elizabeth Packard, a woman committed to a mental institution in the 19th century for defying her husband’s religious beliefs, were just a few of the interesting but unknown women whose lives and works students researched for Joyce Antler’s library intensive course, “Women in American History, 1865 to the Present.” University Archivist Karen Adler Abramson and Reference Librarian Judy Pinnolis walked the students through the archival research process, demonstrating a broad range of print and electronic resources for uncovering primary and secondary source materials on these women.

ART

Creative Arts Librarian Darwin Scott donned his bibliographic rescue gear and took his library intensive course, “Impressionism: Avant-Garde Rebellion in Context,” directly to Professor Nancy Scott’s classroom. A portable computer in the now fully-wired art instruction classroom enabled the projection screen to shift from its usual fare of Renoirs and Monets to library resources to help the students learn how to locate art exhibition catalogs and reviews of exhibits.

“Thanks to the Library Intensives, my students and I are better able to keep an eye on the most productive way of doing research on the Web,” says Scott. “With Darwin’s class web site, the class could consult direct links for ‘galleries’ of images on the Impressionists, or download entire articles from certain newly subscribed services, such as jstor.org. This kind of help from the Libraries is invaluable, particularly as students become increasingly reliant upon web-based sources.”

The Library Intensive Program is steadily gaining popularity among the faculty. As Economics Professor Anne Carter declared after her library intensive: “I would like you to do it for both of my classes next semester. You are terrific! I can’t thank you enough for the class, which was very helpful to me as well as to the students. As I see it, librarians are academic fairy-godmothers, or whatever the gender-free equivalent of that label is.”

THE LIBRARY INTENSIVE PROGRAM

Librarians in the Classroom

These enthusiastic librarians bring the library into the classroom through the Library Intensive Program.
Brandeis scientists have made groundbreaking advances in understanding how the regulations of a novel gene during the cell cycle can lead to a rare familial case of the early onset of Parkinson’s disease. Parkinson’s is the most common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer’s, affecting about 1 million Americans. Although most of those affected develop the disease sporadically, after age 60, a small percentage get the disease much earlier, from inherited mutations in one of several genes.

“Ultimately our research may help lead to medicine that people can take as they age that will either slow down or prevent the disease; that’s our long-term goal,” said Gregory A. Petsko, the Gyula and Katica Tauber Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacodynamics and Director Rosenstiel Basic Medical Sciences Research Center.

Several young scientists were involved in the research, conducted under the leadership of Petsko and Dagmar Ringe, Lucille P. Markey Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacodynamics and Director Rosenstiel Basic Medical Sciences Research Center.

“DJ-1 is a protein expressed in every cell,” said Petsko. “Yet the only cells affected by mutations that lead to a loss of function of DJ-1 are found in a certain sub-set of neurons in the middle of the brain. The loss of these neurons leads to the symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease.”

Although the protein DJ-1 is highly abundant in all cells, its biological functions, mechanisms of action, and its implication in Parkinson’s disease are not well understood. By tracking its role in the cell cycle and any associated defects in cellular behavior caused by the loss of its function, the researchers hope to provide insights into the common pathway that causes disease progression.

The Brandeis scientists have been investigating the hypothesis that the quiescent or resting state of certain nerve cells makes them more vulnerable to the loss of proteins like DJ-1.

“Neurons are quiescent cells,” said Petsko. “And in collaborative work with Mark Cookson at NIH, we’ve shown that loss of this protein in mammalian cells makes the cells much more sensitive to certain types of stress, stress that occurs more frequently in quiescent cells like neurons. The discovery may be a link to uncovering how mutations leading to the loss of function of this protein cause increased cellular oxidative stress and ultimately leads to the development of the disease.”

The researchers hope to discover the intricate mechanisms that link the loss of function of the mutated DJ-1 protein with neurodegeneration at the cellular level. There is reason to hope that this may also provide insights to common pathways of other diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Lou Gehrig’s and many other neurodegenerative diseases.
Last year, we were challenged to imagine possibilities that would help create a vibrant future for the organization. With NWC’s determination and ingenuity, we were stimulated to achieve the unprecedented, including establishing a new leadership development initiative through the BUNWC Academy and reaching a milestone of over $95 million in contributions in our 55-year history to Brandeis University. Congratulations!

Where do we go from here? We have two important challenges today: 1) investing in NWC’s future by mentoring a new generation of leaders and nurturing new chapter development; and 2) investing in Brandeis students who will be tomorrow’s leaders and peacemakers by raising millions for the Brandeis comprehensive campaign, Creating Connections, to support scholarships and the Libraries. As National President Romayne Goldberg (1960-62) said: “We are not concerned with obstacles, but are concerned with needs.”

Investing in our future through leadership development has always been a hallmark of the National Women’s Committee. Throughout the years, we continue to re-evaluate our goals, reinforce existing programs, establish leadership training, and plan for the future. As Belle Jurkowitz ’55, National President 1993-1996, notes in her book, Strictly By the Book, “Our history continues: the past is prologue to the future.”

In meeting our financial commitment to the University, we are poised to go far beyond our campaign goal. We set the wheels of success in motion when we made a record annual gift of $8.3 million to the University this last year. With explosive advances in medical research and the transformation of library services and resources, our role to support the library system through both annual and endowed funds has never been more critical. These advances also impact the cost of higher education. In true Brandeisian spirit that espouses “cultural diversity, equal access to opportunities, and freedom of expression” (Brandeis University mission statement), the NWC also funds scholarships and fellowships.

With an extraordinary history of achievement, the NWC can look with confidence to the future. Barbara Miller, National President 1986-89, said of the NWC, “To be as much as we can be, we must dream of being more.” I am as invigorated as you to meet the challenges before us. Together, we are building a future for both Brandeis University and the National Women’s Committee that holds untold promise.

University Honors

Six leaders of the National Women’s Committee were made President’s Councilors by Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz at NWC’s National Conference. Recognized for service to Brandeis and the National Women’s Committee were (L-R): Beth Wolfson, South Shore, MA; Shirley Lee, North Shore, IL; Arlene Alpert, Fall River, MA; and Edith Zwick, Boca Raton. Also honored but not present were Helen Meltzer (Boston) and Norman Weil (Tucson).

Paying Tribute to Sisters

Jean and Irving Forman visited the National Women’s Committee Tribute Wall in the Goldfarb Library recently to see the names of his sisters, Eva and Frances Forman, who were members of the Fall River, MA Chapter. The Formans established the Eva and Frances Forman Memorial Endowed Scholarship in his sisters’ honor.
IMPRINT INTERVIEW

We asked Professor Jeffrey Abramson, one of America’s leading political scholars, for his insight into the 2004 presidential election. Study the issues in more depth through his new Study Group brieflet during National Study Group Month this October.

IMPRINT What distinguishes this election from elections of the past?

ABRAMSON American presidential elections are becoming increasingly incoherent, a phenomenon that dates back to the McGovern Reforms which were meant to eliminate closed decision-making in smoke-filled rooms and give the voters real power through the restructured primary elections. What has actually happened instead is that money now buys elections. The good news is that candidates may no longer be beholden to large special interest groups such as unions, but the bad news is that it has become very difficult to know what a candidate stands for.

IMPRINT How has that been expressed in this election?

ABRAMSON I think what happened to Howard Dean is a prime example. Howard Dean was the Jimmy Carter or real maverick in this election, the one who campaigned outside of the establishment. As he built support and raised money, the moneyed forces decided he had to go. They decided he was not ready for prime time and they needed a more establishment candidate. Dean represented a serious threat to the hold of the establishment on the process.

IMPRINT What role does the media play in this incoherence?

ABRAMSON We ultimately have always voted for our sense of the person, but elections are so media-driven today that it becomes hard to know who the person is and what he or she stands for. During the Stevenson/Eisenhower campaign of 1952, the candidates would have gotten 42-second sound bites on television. During the 2000 election, that was down to seven seconds, and will perhaps be less in 2004. The media is not interested in the person or in democratic values. It is only interested in selling eyeballs to advertisers.

IMPRINT Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of our political process?

ABRAMSON I’m optimistic, in the sense that I am optimistic that democracy works in the long run, that people are smarter than the pollsters and pundits often give them credit for, and that they find a way to make their vote a rational expression of their own interests and values.

For information on this or other Study Groups, contact Beth Bernstein, M.A.90, 781-736-4190

The Responsibilities of Citizenship

Another Brandeis brieflet, Professor Andreas Teuber's “What Does it Mean to be an American Citizen? Civic Engagement and the Revival of Democracy” would also provoke lively discussion on the eve of Election 2004. (#BR62)
CONCORDIA, NJ sent this enthusiastic group to Florida for a few warm and stimulating days at the Kislak Adult Learning Camp.

CORPUS CHRISTI Family and friends coming from as far as Mexico were among the 110 people who paid tribute to long-time member Elizabeth Susser at a beautiful dinner in her honor. Left to right are: former Region President Jill Swiler, Susser, and former National Women’s Committee President Carol Kern. Proceeds from the event went to the Brandeis Libraries for book preservation.

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL received a service award from the Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis for its contributions to the Hag Sameach (Happy Holiday) program. Standing (L-R) are: Carolyn Kaufmann, Judy Sherman, Gerri Maisel, Lois Lichten, Doreen Greenblat, Renee Gainsley, and Sharon Stulberg. Seated is Sheila Cohen, JFCS coordinator of volunteers.

The LOS ANGELES MEN’S GROUP was represented at the National Women’s Committee Conference by (L-R): Dan Birnbaum, Al Gomer, Robert Bienenfeld, and Irv Kierman. Thanks to Gomer’s dogged efforts, the group recently raised $20,000 for scholarships at Brandeis.

The LOS ANGELES Chapter’s 2004 “Authors and Celebrity Awards Day” featured author Jamie Lee Curtis (left) and honored member Evelyn Finkelstein. Program chair was Elayne Wexler and event chair Sheila Zola-Burman.

MIDDLESEX, NJ’s Book and Author Dinner featured Paula Marantz Cohen (left), author of Much Ado About Jessie Kaplan and Jane Austen in Boca. Chapter Co-president Lorrie Leavitt is at right.

The PHOENIX Book Store attracted many enthusiastic book lovers to the grand opening of its newly-renovated store.
LAS FLORES, FLORIDA

BUNWC Goes International

Despite its name, the Las Flores Chapter in Formation in Boca Raton, Florida is not a Latin group. Started when the daughter of a woman from South Africa went to Brandeis, its members are from Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Israel, Venezuela, South Africa, and the United States. They are also young, most with children at home, and most working.

Led with great enthusiasm by Mariana Saslafsky, a former vice president at Citibank/Citicorp and mother of four, Las Flores holds only evening meetings. Since its founding in October, 2003, speakers have included a representative from the Israeli Embassy who talked about the security fence; a Catholic seminary teacher who discussed the view of the church of the recent movie, “The Passion” and the issues of anti-Semitism it raised; and a Holocaust survivor who is an artist.

This season’s programming will feature a movie and discussion of the Kindertransport that took many children to their deaths in Europe, visits to an artist’s studio, and the group’s first study groups on women’s health and on children of Holocaust survivors and non-Jewish Germans.

“We’ve had as many as 50 people at our meetings and we have 36 paid members so far,” reports Saslafsky. “Our first goal, of course, is to reach a membership of 75 and to meet the other requirements for becoming a chapter.”

Judy Glaser, former president of the Boca Raton Chapter and a member of the National Board, is the engine that made Las Flores happen, according to Saslafsky. “She is amazing,” she says. “We have had such great help from Judy and others in Boca. She mentors me, their treasurer mentors our treasurer, their special events chairman mentors our special events person, and so on. And, of course, we also get help from the National Office.”

Travel with Brandeis in 2005

Russia—Passage of Peter the Great
Moscow and St. Petersbourg
June 29 - July 11, 2005

Italian Lake District
August 29-September 6, 2005

For more information contact Beth Finkelstein, Alumni Relations, 781-736-4100

Kudos

ANNAPOLIS Twenty years to the day of receiving its charter, Annapolis celebrated its anniversary with a gala benefit dinner honoring founding President Anna E. Greenberg and first and current Treasurer Lenore S. Lerner, both instrumental in the founding of the chapter. More than 100 attended the event, which was co-chaired by outgoing co-presidents Dee Green and Faye Rosenberg. The chapter also hosted the University Outreach program for five chapters in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

BOCA RATON mounted its own version of “Antiques Road Show” recently when it held an antique and appraisal show featuring antiques for sale, professional appraisals, speeches by experts, a Chinese auction of donated items, and lunch. Dr. Dorothy Pierce chaired the event which attracted more than 200 people and raised $6,000 for Brandeis.

LOS ANGELES members really know how to have a good time, whether it’s singing along to Academy Award winning songs from the ’30s and ’40s at a jazz club, enjoying a private afternoon concert of Dvorak, performed by members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, or touring private homes filled with great art.

NASSAU NORTH, NY celebrated its 50th anniversary as a chapter with a luncheon, boutique, and entertainment by Shelly Shields. Shields is an accomplished vocalist, pianist, and songwriter who performs in ten languages.

NORTHERN WESTCHESTER held a Dessert and Learn fund raising event at which Hannelies Guggenheim of the Central Westchester Chapter made a presentation on “The Golden Age of Jews in Spain.”

WHITTINGHAM, NJ’s Charlotte Dinowitz and Gerry Kipshutz formed their “Women to Women Brandeis” group to give members an opportunity for meaningful discussions about life and its challenges. The discussion leaders liken their groups (now two) to the “Socrates Café,” a public salon featured in the October, 2003 Reader’s Digest.
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