Greetings, BNC member!

The BNC is a vibrant part of Brandeis University. Every year, we help raise much-needed funds to support our faculty and students, and every year we continue to do it better. But our work is more than just raising funds; it is connecting our members with Brandeis and making them feel a part of this first-class university. It is about supporting innovators and innovations and finding new solutions to the challenges we face.

In this special issue of Imprint, we are highlighting three major BNC initiatives — our visioning project, learning opportunities, and a new fundraising campaign to create a fund for neurological and neurodegenerative disease research and scholarships in the sciences.

I am excited about the cutting-edge scientific and medical research taking place in the Brandeis laboratories and the fact that our undergraduate students can be active participants. Our students are not only highly motivated and involved in the sciences, they are also socially and culturally aware thanks to activities that range from participating in a social justice project on campus or in another part of the world to performing works by Shakespeare or Beethoven. They are learning to become critical thinkers in our ever-changing world.

I am passionate about the Brandeis National Committee — our history, what we have accomplished and what we offer our members: learning opportunities provided by Brandeis professors that cover a multitude of topics and are the hallmark of our organization; the opportunity to meet new people at a study group, program or fundraising event; and an opportunity to provide much-needed funds to support a world-class liberal arts and research university.

As always, I invite you to visit Brandeis whenever you are in the Boston area and would welcome the opportunity to join you on a tour of campus. I promise it will be an enlightening experience.

With warm regards,
Leslie Pearlstein, National President
Why have we created this “visioning” project?

The Brandeis National Committee has had a long and distinguished history as an integral part of Brandeis University. For 63 years the BNC has been a source of financial support for the university.

Over the years, our research shows that people join the BNC and remain members because of our chapter study group programs and the friendships they make. Our Brandeis faculty-authored materials and University-on-Wheels programming have helped connect our members to Brandeis. And early on, these intellectual connections with our faculty members distinguished the BNC from other organizations.

But today there are many challenges facing us.

Volunteers no longer volunteer the same way their parents did. People are working longer and traveling more and have less free time to give.

There is also increased competition with other organizations. Online book sites have changed the Brandeis used-book sales customer base. Temples and community adult education classes, as well as local colleges and universities, are now offering extensive lifelong learning programs similar to our chapters’ study group materials.

And the recession has impacted fundraising because people no longer can afford to support all of the causes they wish to.

The BNC wants to address these challenges. We want to ensure the vibrancy of the BNC as a significant source of philanthropic contributions to the university and to maintain our reputation for excellence in learning.

How are we doing this?

This grassroots effort involves all of us — each and every member of the BNC. Thus far, we have randomly surveyed our members online and via the mail. We have held focus groups around the country, and we have pulled together research from Brandeis University’s Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and other resources.

Our emerging initiatives include increasing our membership by attracting baby boomers and men; developing a new fundraising campaign (see page 4); and continuing to present high-quality learning opportunities for our chapters (see page 7). Underlying these initiatives is the need to strengthen leadership development and increase the use of technology.

How you can be a part of this important planning initiative

Think about these three basic questions:

1. How can the BNC be the best at supporting Brandeis University?
2. What are BNC members passionate about, and how can we harness this passion?
3. How can we foster an emotional connection between members and the university?

Let us know your thoughts. We value your input and want to hear from you. Email bnc@brandeis.edu or call us at 781-736-4160.

For more information on our new initiatives, visit the BNC website at www.brandeis.edu/bnc/about/visioning.html.

Leslie Pearlstein, National President
Carol Kern, Chair
Did you know that Alzheimer’s disease alone affects 15 million people worldwide?

Maybe you or a family member or friend is one of those people. As the population ages and this number increases, the need for neurological and neurodegenerative disease research becomes increasingly important.

Brandeis University researchers in more than 50 laboratories are making strides in the study of brain-related disorders, including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases. These Brandeis professors and students are dedicated to the basic research in brain function that has already led to breakthroughs in our understanding of neurological disease. With such hands-on research opportunities available to students, it is no surprise that studies in the sciences have become Brandeis’ most popular majors.

That’s why investing in scientific research and scholarships at Brandeis is an investment in the future. During its short history, Brandeis has achieved acclaim as one of the finest research universities in the country, with a longstanding reputation for excellence in neuroscience research, both in the classroom and in the laboratories.

We invite you to join the Brandeis National Committee’s “Sustaining the Mind: Scientific Research and Scholarships” campaign to establish an important fund to foster research in neuroscience and neurodegenerative diseases, and to establish an endowed scholarship fund for students in the sciences. The vision and determination of a cadre of loyal supporters like you will help us reach our $3 million campaign goal and will ensure that Brandeis researchers and students are able to excel in their fields of study and make important advancements in neuroscience.
Q: How would you describe the study of neuroscience?

The field of neuroscience studies how the brain controls behavior. To do that, we first try to understand how single neurons work. Neurons are connected into circuits by means of synapses, so we then try to understand how synapses function. Then we try to understand how those circuits actually perform specific tasks that control different features of the animal’s behavior, whether we’re studying humans, simple soil nematodes, fruit flies or the crabs that I work on.

The neurons and the synapses found in flies or worms or crabs are not all that different from the synapses and cells found in mammals. As you go up the evolutionary scale the number of neurons and synapses increases astronomically; as the number of synapses and the number of neurons increases, the complexity of the circuits and the complexity of the behaviors increase.

Q: Why is it so important to study general neuroscience — not only diseases like ALS and Parkinson’s?

Every neuroscientist wants to understand human neurological and psychiatric disorders. Most of us became neuroscientists to try to understand some of the deep mysteries of who we are, how we think, how we behave and what goes wrong in disease. Some human neurological or psychiatric disorders are so complicated and so difficult to understand that sometimes it’s more useful to go back to simpler model systems where you can hope to formulate an answer to a fundamental problem and then understand how that problem plays itself out in the context of disease.

Q: Could the malfunction of this process have a relationship to neurodegenerative diseases?

The fundamental insight is that you need mechanisms to constantly control the rebuilding of a healthy nervous system to maintain stable function but allow plasticity. This insight most definitely informs our understanding of every kind of neurological disease we find.

Q: Why is it so important to offer scholarships to students here?

We want to attract the best and brightest students, regardless of their ability to pay. We have an extraordinary academic institution here, and we want to make sure that we don’t end up educating only the top few percent of the financial elite. We also don’t want to leave students with a burden of debt that basically makes their career choices dependent on their ability to earn money. We want students to follow their hearts without the burden of debt skewing those decisions.

For the complete interview with Marder, visit www.brandeis.edu/bnc/fundraising/science-news.html.
Scientists discover protein complex linked to memory

Have a difficult time remembering where you put your keys, learning a new language or recalling names when you’re at a party? New research from the Lisman Laboratory points to a molecule that is central to the process by which memories are stored in the brain.

The brain is composed of neurons that communicate with each other through structures called synapses, which convey electrical signals to and from neurons. A strong synapse has a large effect on its target cell, whereas a weak synapse has little effect. Professor John Lisman’s work builds on previous studies showing that changes in the strength of these synapses are critical in the process of learning and memory.

“It is now quite clear that memory is encoded not by the change in the number of cells in the brain, but rather by changes in the strength of synapses. You have to understand how memory works before you can understand the diseases of memory,” says Lisman.

The effect of hearing loss on memory

Art Wingfield, the Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Neuroscience, director of the Volen National Center for Complex Systems and a recent recipient of the Baltes Distinguished Research Achievement Award, has been working on how hearing loss affects memory.

It’s not surprising, he explains, that if someone has to struggle to hear through a bad cell phone connection or traffic noise, it takes a lot of effort. In an older adult, he says, the degree of effort and cognitive resources required can weaken memory. In other words, efforts that would have been used for encoding memories are instead exhausted to understand sentences.

Name: Miriam Halimi ’13  
Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Major: Biology/Pre-Med  
Courses: Physiology, Organic Chemistry and Lab, Fourth-Year Chinese Language, 3D Design and Sculpture  
Career Plans: Halimi’s plans to become a doctor and eventually bring medical care to the underrepresented areas of China have shaped her experiences at Brandeis. As the founder and president of the Brandeis China Care Club, an organization that raises funds for orphans in China with special medical needs, she recently returned from a summer in Beijing on a culture-language intensive program. In addition to spending intersession and summers volunteering in a hospital, at Brandeis Halimi mentors inner-city immigrant children from Boston and works as an English language tutor with Brandeis facilities employees. She also works in the library and is a BNC Student Ambassador.  

Why Brandeis?  
“With a dream of studying neuroscience and neurosurgery in medical school, I knew when choosing a university that Brandeis has one of the most renowned neuroscience departments,” Halimi says. “Brandeis values scientific research. Not only are the labs at Brandeis in high demand by the students, but news of findings are major topics of discussion. I’m proud to be part of a community so passionate about and dedicated to furthering neuroscience research.”
Tap into the extensive educational opportunities brought to you through the BNC. Bring your imagination and your desire to learn, and engage in spirited discussions. BNC “Learning Opportunities” comprise a diversity of courses, lectures and programs with a Brandeis connection, designed to meet the unique needs of the adult learner. This is only a sampling of our Brandeis offerings. For a complete list, visit www.brandeis.edu/bnc/programming.

STUDY WITH THE BEST
Discover the excitement and challenge of a Brandeis classroom through the BNC’s Brandeis faculty-authored study group materials.

Contemporary Issues/Current Events
What’s Going On in the Middle East Today?
Middle East Briefs, a “real-time” publication of the Crown Center for Middle East Studies, provides a succinct analysis of a single issue and current development that is at the top of the region’s political, social, or economic agenda. Find it online at www.brandeis.edu/crowncenter.

Film Studies
Two Hollywood Classics: “Citizen Kane” and “Casablanca”
By Paul Morrison, Professor of English
Two classic Hollywood movies, and yet they are so different. How are we to think of film in relation to established standards of aesthetic judgment?

The Screening Room: Brandeis Goes to the Movies — Nine Deadly Films of Hitchcock
The movies are indelible, the surname is adjectival, and the black outline of the portly profile is as recognizable as the Nike logo. More than two decades after his death, Alfred Hitchcock still towers over American cinema.

Film on Film
By Paul Morrison, Professor of English

Law and Society
The American Jury: Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt
By Sharon Fray Witzer, Lecturer in Legal Studies and Philosophy of Law
We think of our government as having three branches — legislative, executive and judicial. A fourth branch of our democracy is all but forgotten — the jury. Are juries necessary to democracy?
The Morality of Punishment: A Philosophical Exploration of Why We Put People in Prison  
**NEW**
By Sharon Fray-Witzer, Lecturer in Legal Studies and Philosophy of Law

Why do we punish certain behaviors more severely than others? This guide introduces the competing theories of punishment, guides you in discussing whether those theories are compatible and encourages you to design your own theory of punishment, ultimately exploring your comfort with your own theory.

What Are Legal Puzzlers?  
**NEW**
By Andreas Teuber, Associate Professor of Philosophy

Legal puzzlers are a series of murder mysteries and short takes in criminal, civil and constitutional law, with accompanying commentaries. These cases will test your mental acuity and flexibility of mind and encourage you to think creatively. They will spark lively conversation and debate and demonstrate that the study of law can be both exhilarating and fun. Legal Puzzlers will raise questions about the nature of law and the fundamental values our laws aim to promote and protect, such as privacy, free speech, liberty, equality and justice. Contained in each puzzler is all the information needed to brainstorm and reach a conclusion about these conundrums in the law.

Omissions and Duty to Rescue

Negligent Homicide or a Mother’s Love?

Crimes Committed for Good Reason and With the Best Intentions

Guilty for the Crimes of the Father: The Felony Murder Rule

Victims’ Rights: Justice or Revenge?

Is the Death Penalty Cruel and Unreasonable Punishment?

“Trash on the Beach: What Are the Facts of a Case?”  
**NEW**

“When Privacy and Free Speech Collide”  
**NEW**

“Who Owns Your Organs Once They Are Surgically Removed?”  
**NEW**

“The Trolley Problem and a Cornerstone Principle of International Law”  
**NEW**

“What, If Anything, Does the U.S. Supreme Court Have to Teach Us About the Game of Golf?”  
**NEW**

“Where There’s a Will There’s a Way: Where Should a Judge Look to Find the Law?”  
**NEW**

Literature

Novels of the New Millennium  
**NEW**
By William Flesch, Professor of English

When it comes to the history and development of artistic form, like the novel, dates are artificial. With the new millennium, writers felt a new opening: for characters, for storytelling, for something that would be both serious and gripping.

Philip Roth’s Late Work  
**NEW**
By William Flesch, Professor of English

Philip Roth may turn out to be the great American novelist of our time. Consider six of Roth’s late works — novels that are astonishing.

The Short Story in Short  
**NEW**
By Lydia G. Fash, doctoral candidate under the auspices of Professor Paul Morrison, Department of English and American Literature

This study guide provides an introduction to the short story that also includes questions, a list of excellent short fiction and other sources of short stories, including how to access The New Yorker fiction podcast, plus four readings on the genre of the short story from “The New Short Story Theorists.”

The 20th-Century Novel  
**NEW**
By William Flesch, Professor of English

This introduction to six works of 20th-century fiction considers how the human spirit deals with the breakdown of civilization and its promises.

Poetry

People Who Have Given Up on Poetry  
**NEW**
By William Flesch, Professor of English

Until the 20th century, poetry was more popular than novels, more popular than any other literary form. What happened in the 20th century was that poets lost the idea that deep poetry could give pleasure — that deep poetry could be fun. But poetry should be fun, no matter how deep, and this study guide is about reminding us how much fun poetry can be, even when it’s very deep indeed. We all loved nursery rhymes as children, so everyone starts out loving poetry. How do we get back to that early, deep and lovely experience?

Pop Culture

Popular Culture of the 1950s

American Culture in the 1960s

American Film and Culture of the 1940s

American Film and Culture of the 1950s

American Film and Culture of the 1960s

Pop Culture

Modern Ideas of America  
**NEW**
By David Engerman, Associate Professor of History and Co-Chair, Graduate Program in History

What did it mean to be in American in the 20th century? In addition to brief texts (all available online), the study guide also offers insights and questions about films, including “The Jazz Singer,” “Home of the Brave” and “The Godfather.”

The Jewish Experience

American Judaism: A Reader’s Guide  
**NEW**
By Rachel Gordan, under the supervision of Jonathan Sarna, Professor of American Jewish History

A study of Jewish life from the colonial era through the present day.
American Jewish Humor
Jews in the Musical Theater
The Impact of Jews in American Popular Culture
About Women
You Never Call, You Never Write: A History of the Jewish Mother
By Joyce Antler, Samuel Lane Professor of American Jewish History and Culture

Antler examines one of the best known figures in popular culture — the Jewish mother — through decades of American films, novels, radio and television programs, stand-up comedy acts, and psychological and historical studies.

Wedding Song: Memoirs of an Iranian Jewish Woman
By Farideh Goldin (partnership with Hadassah-Brandeis Institute)

A passionate and painful account of Goldin’s growing up in a poor Jewish household in pre-Revolutionary Iran and her emigration to the United States in 1975.

Muslim Societies Speak (in partnership with Hadassah-Brandeis Institute)

Jewish women from Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon and Iran share their personal stories of growing up in the shadow of religious fundamentalism and social repression. These essays, told through the medium of vivid personal stories, provide a deeper understanding of the world and an appreciation for Jewish women’s history in North Africa and the Middle East.

On Broadway
You Are What You Are: Jewish Identity in Recent American Drama
By John Bush Jones, Department of Theater Arts (retired)

Questions of Jewish identity are examined in the plays by Jewish-American dramatists.

Art Isn’t Easy: Sondheim on Sondheim in Sunday in the Park With George


THE ENCORE SERIES
Through shared learning with the Brandeis University community, the Encore Series utilizes videotaped presentations of renowned Brandeis faculty and guest speakers discussing a variety of subjects — programs that appeal to the student in each of us. The Encore Series includes the DVD and discussion questions.

A Good Fall
By Ha Jin, Ph.D.’93

National Book Award-winner and Brandeis alumnus Ha Jin’s new collection of short stories focuses on Flushing, one of New York City’s largest Chinese immigrant communities.

Blindspot
By Jane Kamensky, Brandeis University and Jill Lepore, Harvard University

A romance and murder mystery that takes place in Boston a decade before the American Revolution.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
By Junot Díaz

“The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao” won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for fiction just one month after receiving the National Book Critics Circle Award for Best Novel of 2007. The book is a rousing hymn about the struggle to defy bone-cracking history with ordinary, and extraordinary, love.

The Places in Between
By Rory Stewart

In 2002, in the midst of war and a typically harsh winter, Rory Stewart walked across Afghanistan, surviving by his wits, his knowledge of Persian dialects and Muslim customs, and the kindness of strangers.

Yellow
By Don Lee

Set in the fictional California town of Rosarita Bay, Don Lee’s “Yellow” explores what it means to be Asian in America through the postimmigrant examination of identity, race and love.

Zabelle
By Nancy Kricorian

Old School
By Tobias Wolff


Polio: An American Story
By Pulitzer Prize winner David M. Oshinsky, Ph.D.’71

Profiles in Courage Series
By Professor Thomas Doherty, American Studies

‘DEIS FLICKS
In collaboration with the National Center for Jewish Film, the BNC has assembled a lending library of DVDs. The ‘Deis Flicks collection includes both the work of modern independent filmmakers and archival materials. Together, they represent a visual record of the Jewish people in all of their vibrancy and diversity.

“Father’s Footsteps” (2007)

Set in Paris, a tender and emotional portrait of a son whose allegiance to his father is tested while a fiercely protective mother tries to shield her children from the truth. French and Hebrew with English subtitles.

“Mamadrama: The Jewish Mother in Cinema” (2001)

“The Jewish mothers that I know and love are sexy, smart and strong, but I have never seen this mother in Hollywood movies, and I set out to find out why.” —Filmmaker Monique Schwarz

“Finding Leah Tickotsky: A Discovery of Heritage in Poland” (2010)

Exploring Polish-Jewish relations, as well as one filmmaker’s personal journey to discover her family roots.

Advice and Dissent (2002)

After five years in a loveless marriage, Jeffrey Goldman and his wife, Ellen, have reached a crossroads. She would like to salvage their relationship by having a child, and he would like to end it with a clean divorce. When she refuses, Jeffrey must resort to other means.

La Cámara Oscura (2008)

At the end of the 19th century, Gertrudis, a shy, introspective “ugly duckling” in
a colony of immigrant Argentinean Jews, grows into her role as a mother and wife of a charismatic Yidishe Gaucho — until she meets a nomadic photographer whose uncompromising vision allows her to see herself for the first time. Spanish and Yiddish with English subtitles.

The Impossible Spy (1987)
This riveting feature film told in the grand tradition of a John le Carré novel is the incredible but true story of Elie Cohen, an Egyptian-born Jew and top Israeli intelligence agent whose obsession with his mission as a double agent drove him to his death.

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg (1999)
“The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg” is a humorous and nostalgic documentary about an extraordinary baseball player who transcended religious prejudice to become an American icon.

American Matchmaker (Amerikaner Shadkhn) (1940)
Leo Fuchs, the “Yiddish Fred Astaire,” stars in this musical comedy as a debonair and fabulously wealthy Jewish-American businessman whose recent engagement (his eighth) goes awry. Yiddish with English subtitles. Restoration: National Center for Jewish Film.

From Philadelphia to the Front (2005)
Exploring the stories of six veterans — Jewish-American World War II soldiers — in their 80s and their individual experiences during the war.

Green Fields (Grine Felder) (1937)
The most critically acclaimed and beloved of American Yiddish talkies, Edgar Ulmer’s soulful, open-air adaptation of Peretz Hirschbein’s classic play heralded the Golden Age of Yiddish cinema. No other movie has ever represented the shtetl with such lyricism. Yiddish with English subtitles. Restoration and new English subtitles: National Center for Jewish Film.

Imported Bridegroom (1990)
A nostalgic Jewish romance about a rich turn-of-the-century Boston widower who returns from the old country with a husband for his thoroughly modern daughter.

Love at Second Sight (1998)
The life of a promising newspaper photographer with a special knack for giving life to her pictures takes a sudden turn when she becomes infatuated with a stranger she accidentally captures on film. Hebrew with English subtitles.

Purple Lawns (1998)
Two young women, friends since childhood, share a spacious apartment in the heart of Tel Aviv. Their high rent forces them to take in a third flatmate, Malka, a mysterious ultra-Orthodox woman who becomes part of their lives. Hebrew with English subtitles.

Rosenzweig’s Freedom (1998)
In this fast-paced thriller, two Jewish brothers, children of Holocaust survivors, confront the ugly, growing wave of extreme right-wing violence in Germany. As Michael Rosenzweig is wrongly accused of murder of a neo-Nazi leader, his brother, Jacob, a young attorney, takes on his defense. In this tense courtroom drama, Germany’s violent past hangs like a shadow over the present. German with English subtitles.

Travel the World’s Jewish Communities with ‘Deis Flicks
Jewish culture and religion have flourished in parts of the world not frequently associated with the centers of Jewish life. We introduce a series of films exploring the diversity and richness of Jewish life from the far corners of the globe. See how Jews have lived, worshipped, played, cooked, loved and survived all across the world.

Bene Israel – India
Last Jews of Libya
Minyan in Kaifeng: A Modern Journey to an Ancient Chinese Jewish Community
Of Stars and Shamrocks — a story of Boston’s Jews and Irish
Shalom Ya’ll — the Jewish American South
Tijuana Jew

For a complete listing of all learning opportunities materials, including ‘Deis Flicks, study guides, the Encore Series and Brandeis Educational Snacks, visit www.brandeis.edu/bnc/programming.

Food and Culture
by Njelle Hamilton, Ph.D. candidate in English
A gastronomic delight and a culinary tour of the tastes, texts and trails that link food with cultures. You will sample clichés of cuisine and feast on fine literary and audio-visual treats while having the opportunity to discuss food’s relationship with travel, family, gender and ethnicity.
THANKS A THOUSAND

The Brandeis National Committee thanks donors who made gifts of $1,000 or more between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011.

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Roslyn Robbins Dienstein

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Dena Robbins
Howard Roth
Barbara Z. and Joseph R. Sander

$5,000 to $9,999
Anonymous
Ruth Chodos Charitable Trust

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Thanks to you, the BNC raised $2,923,529 for FY 2011 (July 2010 through June 2011)

- **Brandeis Libraries – the Heart of the University ($1,494,250)** Since the beginning, the BNC supported the Brandeis Libraries by helping to provide the necessary journals, books, technology, library work scholarships and special acquisitions.

- **Future Generations ($1,311,047)** We are committed to the future by providing scholarships via the BNC’s Fulfilling the Promise campaign. In addition, donations from individual donors sustain the university in many areas.

- **Science Research ($118,232)** Gifts for science research continue to come from chapter events and individual donations in support of science research in various labs throughout the sciences.

Who You Help
When you give to the BNC, your gift may add an important research journal to the library to keep our faculty members, researchers and students in the know about the most up-to-date information. Your gift may transform the education of a student, giving him or her the opportunity to reach out to explore. Your gift may provide an undergraduate student the opportunity to work alongside a science researcher and be part of a medical discovery. But the important thing is that your gift to Brandeis University sustains the university and has an impact on the future for the next generation.

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Beth Anne Wolfson ’75
Ruth G. and Edwin Young

Help us to continue to sustain the minds of our students and our researchers by continuing our 63-year history of support for Brandeis University.

You can make your contribution online at www.brandeis.edu/bnc or contact Janice Fineman at 781-736-4179 or fineman@brandeis.edu.

FY 2011 TOTAL = $2,923,529
1. Last spring’s Atlanta Chapter Book and Author Event featured local author Krista Reese and her book “Atlanta Kitchens.” Attendees included, from left, hostess Margo Edlin; past president Cathy Schwartz; past president Melanie Zucker; and event co-chair Robin Mintz.

2. Desert Chapter and National Executive Committee member Jean Carrus is “hooded” as a recently elected university fellow during Brandeis University’s 61st Commencement festivities in May. She is joined by University President Fred Lawrence, right, and Paul Zlotoff ’72, chair of the board of fellows.

3. The Harmony Chapter celebrates its Reading Buddies end-of-year program, in which local children are presented with books from volunteers. Volunteers include, from left, member Shirley Alexander; community service co-chair Hope Lewis; recording secretary Sharon Weiss; and member Estelle Levy.

4. Acting president of BNC-Las Vegas Denise Needleman (left) honors Len and Arlene Krane at the BNC-LV Book and Author Event for their many contributions to the success of the BNC’s mission.
5. At the Phoenix Chapter’s Book and Author Event, Gerda Weissman Klein, Freedom of Honor recipient and Holocaust survivor, speaks to the crowd. She is joined by, from left, actor Harry Hamlin; Western Region co-president Sue Karp; former BNC national president Carol Kern; author Michael Hiltzik; and author Mary Jane Clark.

6. At the Four Sisters Book and Author Luncheon in March — which includes the Delray Beach, Trails, Wellworth and Wycliffe chapters in Florida — Nancy Braksmayer, left, former Florida Region vice president, and Irene Jalowayski, Wellworth Chapter president, hold the day’s agenda.

7. National President Leslie Pearlstein, left, honors outgoing Brandeis University Provost Marty Krauss, Ph.D.’81, during an installation luncheon on campus in June.

8. This year’s BNC leadership trainees gather in the new Mandel Center for the Humanities during June’s Leadership Training Program on campus.
Brandeis’ International Business School has been ranked number one in the United States for its Lemberg M.A. in international economics and finance program. The ranking was achieved in the Financial Times’ first-ever survey of the top 30 global masters in finance programs that do not require work experience. The ranking reflects the longstanding strength of the school’s teaching and faculty members in the finance discipline. The Financial Times noted that “the economic downturn and its consequences brought into sharp focus the importance of formal training in finance for professionals in that sector.”

To learn more, visit www.brandeis.edu/now/2011/june/ftranking.html.

Collaborative develops drug that may help hemophilia patients

For people with hemophilia, episodes like a razor nick in the shower or a fall on a slippery floor can cause prolonged blood loss. Thanks to collaborative work between Neil Simister, an associate professor of molecular biology at Brandeis, and doctors at two major Boston hospitals, hemophilia patients may soon have access to long-acting clotting medications that free them from the hassles of frequent infusions and from worries that an internal bleed has gone unnoticed. Professor Simister’s laboratory, as well as labs at the University of Texas and Ohio State University, independently and simultaneously discovered that a receptor called FcRn protects antibodies from breaking down in the body. Building on that basic discovery has enabled the formulation of hemophilia drugs. One such drug is expected to finish Phase III clinical trials by early 2012 and then be filed for FDA approval.

To learn more, visit www.brandeis.edu/now/2011/june/hemophilia.html.
Rose Art Museum has a lot to celebrate

The Rose Art Museum underwent major renovations in preparation for the celebration of the museum’s 50th anniversary. A wide range of changes were made to the current main entrance area and the immediately adjacent gallery to enhance the appearance of the building, increase its energy efficiency and create a better physical environment for works of art. The renovations were funded with a generous gift from Sandra and Gerald Fineberg.

Founded in 1961, the Rose Art Museum of Brandeis University is an educational and cultural institution dedicated to collecting, preserving and exhibiting the finest of modern and contemporary art. The programs of the Rose adhere to the overall mission of the university, embracing its values of academic excellence, social justice and freedom of expression.

Brandeis University and four Rose Art Museum supporters who filed suit two years ago against the university over its handling of the museum during the financial crisis have settled the case and say they are now focused on the future of one of the region’s greatest cultural treasures. The museum will remain a university museum open to the public and will be better integrated into the educational mission of the university. A 50th anniversary exhibition is now on display.

Graybiel Lab poised for next round of space explorations

Although the 30-year chapter in the history of space travel has ended with the landing of the space shuttle Atlantis, researchers of the Ashton Graybiel Spatial Laboratory at Brandeis are ready for the next round. The Graybiel’s rotating room, an artificial gravity research lab that can spin to 35 revolutions per minute, offers the unique ability to study human motion sickness and other conditions of space flight such as weightlessness, macro-gravity, artificial gravity and virtual environments. The lab is equipped to train for motion sickness symptoms and adaptation as well as disorientation and recovery and adaptation, where multiple exposures can decrease the discomfort and improve human productivity in moving environs, including space flight.

NASA recently awarded $269.3 million to six companies to accelerate opportunities both for payloads such as satellites and for individuals to go into space on craft operated by the private sector. These payload specialists — astronauts who are taken on space flights to perform a specific task — will be needed to carry out research and commercial work, and they must be trained. The Graybiel Lab is one of a handful of facilities in the country where that training is done. Talks are currently under way with potential first customers.
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