DEFINING BRANDEIS:
Boundless Opportunities, Endless Possibilities
Pages 8–9

Fulfilling the Promise
Pages 6–7

BNC Recognition
Pages 12–13

Learning Opportunities
Pages 14–15
Dear Friends of Brandeis University,

As 2009 comes to a close, we—like so many other organizations—look back on a challenging year. Still, the members of the Brandeis National Committee remained steadfast in their support of Brandeis.

Many chapters adjusted their programs to meet the challenges of this economy. They provided excellent programming for their members while continuing to raise funds for the library and student scholarships.

This year has given us the opportunity to reflect on who we are, what we do, and why we are important—the three W’s.

Who we are: We are the Brandeis National Committee, and because Brandeis is a part of our name, we stand taller. We are an integral part of Brandeis by virtue of our support for the libraries, research, and scholarships. We are roving ambassadors who bring the name of the university into our own communities.

What we do: We raise funds for Brandeis University. But we are also an outreach organization that provides learning opportunities and excellent programming for our members through study groups, DVDs, faculty members, alumni, and student speakers. Social interaction, leadership skills, and friendships are part and parcel of what we do. We are an organization that cares deeply about our members.

Why we are important: The university values and counts on our support, and we are held in high esteem for what we do and for our history of being an essential part of Brandeis since its founding in 1948. Our importance instills in us a sense of self-worth, knowing that we are helping Brandeis students to receive the best education to become citizens of the world.

As we look ahead to 2010, we will remember this past year mostly for our staying the course and keeping true to our mission.

With my best wishes for a happy new year.

Carol Kern
National President

---

Supporting Students, Honoring a Mother

Jane Sigilman always remembered her mother’s devotion to Brandeis University. For many years, her mother, Bert, was an active member of the Boston chapter of the Brandeis National Committee. She devoted countless hours to the chapter’s book sales to help raise money for the university. Sigilman recalled numerous visits to the Brandeis campus and was especially pleased to see the libraries, because she knew how important they were to her mother.

To honor her mother’s longtime connection to the university, Sigilman left a $1 million bequest to Brandeis. The Bertha A. Sigilman Endowed Scholarship will provide undergraduate students the opportunity to attend Brandeis University and follow their dreams—a gift that will assist young people for generations to come.

Over the past eight years, BNC members and friends have donated more than $24 million to the university through bequests and planned gifts. A planned gift ensures scholarships for students now and in the future.

For more information about planned gifts, please contact Executive Director Janice Fineman at fineman@brandeis.edu or 781-736-4179.
Special Collections Opens the Book on One of Its Treasures

The library is home to the first known bookplate, dating back to the fifteenth century

The practice of affixing bookplates to designate donors or former owners of a book has a long history—back to the fifteenth century, as one library volume featured in a “Special Collections Spotlight” article by PhD candidate Adam Rutledge shows. “The Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections at Brandeis has the distinction of holding an example of the earliest known bookplate, which comes from the collection of Brother Hildebrand (Hilibrand) Brandenburg of Biberach, Germany,” wrote Rutledge. “Scholars date the bookplate to the 1470s, and it must have been completed by 1480, at which time Hildebrand, a Carthusian monk, donated his collection, accompanied by these bookplates, to his monastery in Buxheim.” From that point in the fifteenth century, it moved on from one library to the next until its acquisition by Brandeis.

“We have a wealth of rare, original, and unique materials in our book and manuscript collections, of interest to a wide variety of fields,” said Special Collections librarian Sarah Shoemaker, “and sometimes a particular aspect of an item can capture attention beyond its subject. This historically significant bookplate is a great way to explore book history in general and our rare book collections specifically.”

The bookplate specifically captured the attention of Rutledge, a graduate student in English and American literature who also serves as a Special Collections assistant. Rutledge meticulously researched the history of the bookplate and authored a “Special Collections Spotlight” article on it.

“Our Special Collections department is a great resource for the Brandeis community, and the process of bringing some of the more unique items forward to broader awareness is one that I have greatly enjoyed,” Rutledge said. “This particular piece began with an enigmatic note penciled inside the front cover of one of our medieval manuscripts that read simply, ‘the first bookplate.’ In my Special Collections Spotlight article, part of my effort was to try to capture the process behind researching the provenance of an important volume.”

Visit the Special Collections Spotlight Web site to learn more about the bookplate and other featured items: brandeisspecialcollections.blogspot.com.
New Programs Added to Brandeis Curriculum

Three new programs at Brandeis reflect the faculty's continued dedication to the university's core mission of providing a high-quality, undergraduate liberal-arts education that prepares students for productive, engaged lives as global citizens.

The faculty voted to approve a new business major beginning in fall 2010. The program will be rooted in the liberal arts and allow for learning and participation within Brandeis’s International Business School.

The university also introduced a new film studies major that is designed to provide a broad overview of the history of the moving image and develop a critical appreciation of the cultural meanings of film.

The new Justice Brandeis Semester will offer students opportunities for experiential learning in the classroom, laboratory, and beyond. Enhancing the university’s commitment to social justice and global engagement, the Justice Brandeis Semester provides a potentially life-changing experience for students. With faculty guidance, students will, for example, have the opportunity to study a social problem, make an artistic contribution to the community, engage in scientific research, or experience a foreign culture.

Rosbash Takes Home 2009 Gruber Prize

Michael Rosbash, a professor of biology and of the Volen National Center for Complex Systems, won the 2009 Gruber Prize in Neuroscience. He shared this international award with longtime collaborators Jeffrey Hall (a Brandeis faculty member until 2008, now professor of neurogenetics at the University of Maine) and Michael Young (a professor and head of the Laboratory of Genetics at Rockefeller University) for their groundbreaking discoveries of the molecular mechanisms that control circadian rhythms in the nervous system. Their research was the first to establish a simple relationship between single genes and a complex behavior.

Nearly all biological creatures—whether a fruit fly or man—display a circadian rhythm. This astounding ability depends on an intricate molecular mechanism that, once developed in a species, is conserved throughout evolution. Resetting one’s biological clock can take many days, as those traveling to different time zones may experience. For employees who work odd hours, the interruption of this rhythm can cause stress and fatigue, which, over many years, can lead to harmful medical conditions.

The Gruber International Prize honors contemporary individuals whose groundbreaking work in the fields of cosmology, genetics, neuroscience, justice, and women’s rights provides new models that inspire and enable fundamental shifts in knowledge and culture.

Petsko Named Next Head of Biomolecular Society

Gregory Petsko, the Gyula and Katica Tauber Professor of Biochemistry and Chemistry, has been named president-elect of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB). Petsko, who is the president of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, will assume the position of IUBMB president in three years at the IUBMB Congress in Seville, Spain.

The IUBMB unites biochemists and molecular biologists in seventy-seven countries through their academies of science, research councils, and biochemical societies. Its mission is to foster and support the advancement of biochemistry and molecular biology as the foundation from which the biomolecular sciences derive their basic ideas and techniques in the service of mankind.

Brandeis Celebrates (Justice) Brandeis

As Louis Brandeis returned to the public consciousness through the issuance of a U.S. postage stamp in his honor and the publication of a new biography, the university paid tribute to its namesake at a special celebration.

“As our country learns more about Louis Brandeis through the new stamp and biography, it’s important that we reflect on the life of a man who was committed to the ideals of intellectual inquiry, social justice, and a fully functioning democracy,” said Brandeis president Jehuda Reinharz, PhD’72.

The Brandeis stamp is part of the U.S. Postal Service’s 2009 commemorative stamp program and is one of four in the Supreme Court Justices collection. Joseph Story, Felix Frankfurter, and William J. Brennan Jr. are honored as well.

A new biography, Louis D. Brandeis: A Life, by Melvin Urofsky is the first full-scale biography of Louis Brandeis in twenty-five years and chronicles the remarkable story of the Supreme Court justice’s impact on American society and jurisprudence. Urofsky, a noted scholar and professor of law and public policy and professor emeritus of history at Virginia Commonwealth University, has written and edited fifty-two books, including seven volumes on the life of Brandeis.

Urofsky’s recent Meet the Author lecture at Brandeis is available online at www.brandeis.edu/now/2009/october/urofsky.html.
More Ways to Keep Up with the BNC

Dear Brandeis friends,

I know that as members of the Brandeis National Committee you enjoy staying in touch with the university and each other. Today there are so many ways we communicate—e-mail, social networks, online newsletters, telephone, fax, and, yes, even the U.S. Postal Service.

We are in touch and tuned in. We listen, read messages and news from others, and send our own messages to an ever-widening network of contacts.

The BNC is always seeking new ways to communicate with our members and friends. We want to share our chapters’ success stories, and we want to spread the current news so that you will be up-to-date on all that is happening at the university and at the BNC.

As so many organizations are doing, we are turning more to electronic messaging, and we are exploring new ways to widen our outreach. For example, we have posted Brandeis Faculty Forums online so you can see and hear a live lecture by a Brandeis professor. This year, we will be producing issues of *Imprint* online. And, we now have our own page on Facebook.

We want to send you information in a timely manner, and you can help us accomplish this. By sending us your e-mail address, you will be a part of our network. We do not share our e-mail lists.

We want to hear from you. Send your own BNC stories to us at bnc@brandeis.edu.

Warm regards,

Janice Fineman
Executive Director

Find Us on Facebook

The Brandeis National Committee now has a Facebook page!

The new page is a way to keep in touch with BNC members and share important updates about BNC and all its chapters.

The Facebook page is available to everyone and can be accessed at www.facebook.com/brandeisnationalcommittee.

As a BNC Facebook fan, you will receive news updates daily about Brandeis and about BNC. The updates will show up in your news feed and directly on our Facebook page. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months.

Sign on and let us hear from you. See you on Facebook!

Students Adopt a Chapter

As part of the BNC Student Ambassadors Program, Brandeis undergraduates recently came together in the BNC National Center to kick off the new “adopt-a-chapter” project. Participants wrote letters to chapter presidents in an effort to continue creating connections between students and BNC members.

The Student Ambassadors Program brings both undergraduate and graduate students to chapters, giving them the opportunity to talk about their research, their courses of study, and, most important, their personal experiences at Brandeis.

Brandeis students want to share their enthusiasm and appreciation with the Brandeis National Committee.
fulfilling the promise

Brandeis University / Brandeis National Committee

The Brandeis National Committee continues to meet the challenge of supporting Brandeis University, raising funds for everything from building the libraries to filling the shelves with books. Now, the two-year Fulfilling the Promise campaign pursues an ambitious goal of $3 million to provide ongoing support for the Brandeis libraries and much-needed scholarships for students who want to follow their dreams at Brandeis.

Guaranteeing the Future

Ruthy Dabah makes the most of her Brandeis experience

By Mary Pat Prado

Family always has been at the center of Ruthy Dabah’s life—in her native Panama, later in Miami, and now at Brandeis, where she has found yet another family and feels very much at home.

Dabah spent her first semester of college in Israel before coming to her “dream school,” Brandeis, with her twin sister, Jacklyn. A third-year student, Dabah seems like she’s still pinching herself, hardly able to believe her good fortune at being at Brandeis, thanks in part to the BNC Florida Region Endowed Scholarship in Judaica. She has combined the strong Jewish identity fostered by her family with her love of teaching in a double major of Judaic studies and education studies. She plans to teach elementary school.

“When I came here, I was almost in shock at how great the academics are,” she recalls. “I’m always excited to go to class and take advantage of everything at Brandeis. I have loved all of my classes, from developmental psychology in a big lecture hall to small, intimate seminars. There hasn’t been one professor I haven’t admired and found very helpful. Many of them are tops in their fields.”

Dabah is also active outside the classroom. Dancing has been a mainstay in her life since she joined the Bamachol Dance Academy in North Miami Beach as a dancer and choreographer at age twelve. She has continued that passion by performing with the B’Yachad Israeli Dance Troupe in the Boston area. In addition, she counts her work as a teacher assistant at the university’s Lemberg Children’s Center on campus as one of her most enjoyable and fulfilling experiences.

Brandeis Chabad House is Dabah’s home away from home. As a board member, she helps organize Friday night dinners, which draw well over one hundred students each week. Dabah says she feels a strong connection to this “family.”

“It is because of the ongoing support of the BNC that I am able to study at such a prestigious university and have these wonderful experiences,” Dabah says.
A Twenty-First Century Library

FOUR THINGS WE DO AT BRANDEIS TO REMAIN RELEVANT

- We deliver information online, offering 24/7/365 access from almost anywhere.
- We contribute to the online information world.
- We support the creation and distribution of information.
- We partner with faculty to be part of the learning, teaching, and research environment.

HOW WE DO IT

- The vast majority of our journals are now online subscriptions.
- We have 40,000 book titles online.
- We scan the entire information universe, evaluate resources, and point our user community to those we believe will best serve them.
- We are digitizing our special collections so they are available anytime to the entire scholarly community.
- Where once libraries safeguarded information and controlled access to the assets, today we help students and faculty actually create multimedia information—films, music, audio files, Web sites, blogs, wikis, and so on.
- We partner with faculty to be part of the learning, teaching, and research environment.
- We support the online teaching environment, merging information with technology to provide rich learning opportunities.
- We teach information literacy—moving beyond how to use a library to how to navigate the information world. We are immersed in the university’s mission of teaching and learning.
- We’ve turned the library into an open service center. We collaborate. Classrooms and student-centered services such as the writing center share space with library staff, print collections, computers, scanners, photocopiers. When you enter Goldfarb Library today, you are in a hub of activity—a true information commons. Our emphasis on digital resources has allowed us to reclaim space for library users. Our emphasis on access to information has led us to move collections from closed stacks to open browsing.

So where do we go from here? The information world is complicated. It’s exciting.

It’s also a little scary; navigating oceans of information requires new skills. We believe our future is in the continued support of learning, teaching, and research. And, to a large extent, our future depends on your support. We are charting a new course for library support of the academy. I know you will continue to be our partners.

Krupp Scholarship Challenge

Liz and George Krupp, friends of Brandeis University, have announced they will match $1 for every $2 in new or increased gifts for scholarship funds in the arts and humanities, up to $1 million. BNC’s goal is to reach $3 million, which comes at a time when the university’s greatest need is financial aid for aspiring undergraduate students.

For more information on this challenge from the Krupp’s, please contact BNC Executive Director Janice Fineman at 781-736-4190 or fineman@brandeis.edu.

Your gift counts toward BNC’s goal for the Fulfilling the Promise: Libraries and Scholars campaign.

By Mary Pat Prado

Are libraries relevant in the digital age?

Brandeis’s deputy CIO and chief university librarian, Susan Wawrzaszek, addressed this question head-on at the BNC National Executive Committee meeting this summer. Here are excerpts from her revealing talk.

So what is the major disruption to academic libraries? It is the change in the way information is created and distributed. It is the popularity of digital information and the Internet. It is the freedom, independence, and empowerment that increased access to information gives a person. It is the reduction of barriers to information.

Libraries are now a subset of the information world, where once we were the entire information world. How disruptive is that? And how do we remain a relevant player in this new world?
Kathryn Molt ’09, a double major in art history and biology who is now in medical school, says of her Brandeis experience, “To be given responsibility for one’s own research project as an undergraduate is unheard-of at most schools, but it seems to be fairly common at Brandeis. “I had the opportunity to work meaningfully—in depth and for a prolonged period of time—on my research project for three years in the biology lab of Professor Sue Lovett. I had as much contact with my primary investigator as I needed. This is very unusual for an undergraduate,” she says.

Molt’s work at Brandeis culminated in the publication of a project on the characterization of bacterial replication initiator protein dnaA. She says that her current medical school classmates at Albany Medical College have not had that level of experience. Molt’s fellow undergrads in the Brandeis lab are now putting such experience to work in PhD programs at MIT and Harvard and in medical school.

Daniel Treacy ’09 has been working in the pioneering behavioral genomics laboratory of Michael Rosbash since his first semester at Brandeis. Rosbash and his colleagues have been recognized for groundbreaking discoveries of the molecular mechanisms that control circadian rhythms in the nervous system. (See Brandeis in Brief on page 4.) In addition to having the rare opportunity to conduct his own research on the properties of RNA—a focus of Rosbash’s lab for two decades—Treacy served as a teaching assistant during his junior and senior years, and he developed and taught his own curriculum on mad cow disease for the course Diseases of the Mind.

“I learned from this experience how much I actually love to teach, and I know I want that to be part of my life down the line,” Treacy says.

Confident that his experiences in the lab and as a teaching assistant were at least as important as what he learned in the classroom, Treacy continued his research after his graduation in hopes of publishing his results, something close to 100 Brandeis undergraduates have been able to do over the last decade.

“At Brandeis, you can pretty much walk up and knock on a professor’s door and say, ‘Can I work in your lab?’” says Zach Lipkin-Moore ’09. Lipkin-Moore is spending one extra year in Professor Jim Haber’s molecular biology laboratory, finishing a project on DNA repair that he hopes to publish. “Jim takes a ton of undergraduates, gives you a project, and then turns you loose,” he explains. “He is totally open to everything. You are treated more as a graduate student than an undergrad, with the same expectations. We present our work to the entire lab at weekly meetings, which forces us really to understand what we’re doing and where it fits in the big picture.”
Lipkin-Moore, who plans to go to medical school, pursued a double major in biology and in the health: science, society, and policy program, which examines health, illness, and health care in the broader context of biological, behavioral, social, political, and economic phenomena. “I came to Brandeis because of this program and because of the small class size and small student-faculty ratio, and I certainly haven’t been disappointed. It was the best decision I ever made,” he says.

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

Global programs are very much in fashion on U.S. college campuses today, but at Brandeis they are grounded in one of the founding principles of the university—a commitment to social justice. A veritable explosion of programs is educating Brandeis students to become global citizens—from a new MBA in socially responsible business at the Brandeis International Business School, to peace and conflict studies, and to language and area studies that span the planet. Every year, hundreds of students spread out across the globe on missions to study and help solve the problems of acute poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation around the world.

Undergraduates known as Sorensen Fellows, for example, have spent summers creating and distributing children’s literature in Lesotho, addressing the health care needs of impoverished populations of Peru, teaching English to children of migrant workers in makeshift communities on the Mexico–New Mexico border, and mounting a peace-building theater project with genocide survivors in Rwanda and Uganda.

Liana Langdon-Embry ’11, a double major in international and global studies and health: science, society and policy, won a $3,500 Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice Award that allowed her to spend the summer working in a mobile school in neighborhoods of Venezuela where children do not typically get to go to school.

Recent graduates Charlotte Benham ’07 and Anastayzia Vareschi ’09 are teaching on Fulbright Fellowships in Nepal and Cameroon, respectively. Joshua Daskin ’09 is applying much of the basic biology and ecology he learned at Brandeis to cutting-edge conservation research in Australia.

Taiyaz Talukdar ’09 has devoted his studies and summer breaks to a better understanding of microfinancing in his native Bangladesh. In a slum of Dhaka, for example, loans of only $10 to $20 have allowed women to buy sewing machines to make clothes and to purchase scissors to cut hair. The extra money they earn can mean the difference between a child’s working to support the family or being able to go to school.

Naman Pugalia ’09 spent his semester break in Mumbai, meeting with officials of the State Department, the Mumbai police, and the Chabad Lubavitch movement, three weeks after the Mumbai, India, terror attacks.

COEXISTENCE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

In addition, several Brandeis programs bring midcareer professionals to Brandeis from around the world to develop skills that will allow them to effect change in their home countries.

Heller School programs in sustainable international development are building a new generation of development planners and policymakers in the United States and abroad for whom a global society free of poverty, preventable disease, and environmental degradation is achievable.

“To be given responsibility for one’s own research project as an undergraduate is unheard-of at most schools, but it seems to be fairly common at Brandeis.”

—Kathryn Molt ’09

The master’s program in coexistence and conflict is a big draw for midcareer professionals who want to understand how to prevent, manage, and resolve serious conflicts in their countries. They are working diplomats, journalists, lawyers, artists, and development workers from Africa, India, Pakistan, Cyprus, Mongolia, Japan, the Philippines, and Eastern Europe who will return to positions of influence in government, intergovernmental affairs, and military and financial institutions to help put their countries on the road to peace.

“I think what distinguishes Brandeis’s international programs is the attention we give to issues of identity—our efforts to build bridges between divided societies,” observes Dan Terris, the university’s associate vice president for global affairs. “Our students are also exceptional in the way they see direct connections between their classroom experiences and the impact they can have on the world.

“It isn’t just a question of how many formal international programs we have. Perhaps because of our founding by the Jewish community, I believe people here think more about issues of identity and conflict than those on other campuses,” he says.
BRANDEIS ACROSS THE NATION

BNC DEDICATES LAB FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

Celebrating the dedication of the BNC laboratory for neurodegenerative disease and the creation of the Endowed Medical Science Journal Fund are (from left) Eleanor Shuman, former vice president of fundraising; Carol Kern, BNC president and chair of the Science for Life campaign; Piali Sengupta, professor of neurobiology and director of the BNC lab; and Marty Krauss, Ph.D.’81, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

PROFESSOR CHAERAN FREEZE SPEAKS TO BOSTON-AREA ALUMNI, BNC, AND BOLLI MEMBERS

ChaeRan Freeze, MA’94, Ph.D.’97 (second from left), associate professor of Near Eastern and Judaic studies and women’s and gender studies, spoke at a joint alumni/ BNC/BOLLI lunch event on campus. She presented a talk titled “Lifestyles of the Jewish Rich and Famous in Nineteenth-Century Tsarist Russia,” in which she drew upon the diaries of the daughter of a prominent Jewish nobleman for a firsthand account of a privileged life in Moscow during that time. Also pictured from left to right are Barbara Cantor Sherman ’54, P ’83; Etta Lappen Davis ’73; and Leslie Pearlstein, P’94, copresident of the Boston chapter.

SAN DIEGUITO CHAPTER INSTALLS PRESIDENT

Sandra Albers (seated far right) was the installing officer at the San Dieguito chapter installation luncheon. Joining her were (from left) Dorothy Katz, Renee Parker, Jane Polgar, and Sandy Marin, president of the San Dieguito chapter.

FLORIDA REGION PRESENTS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL IN BOCA RATON

Former BNC president Dottie Pierce put together a Jewish film festival, presented by the Florida Region. The festival includes four classic Yiddish films with English subtitles—Tevye, Greenfields, A Letter to Mother, and The Dybbuk—as well as four short documentaries about Jewish life in prewar Poland. Discussion and lunch follow.

STUDENTS VISIT BOCA RATON CHAPTER

The Boca Raton chapter board welcomed twin sisters Ruthy and Jackie Dabah, Brandeis Class of 2011, who shared personal thoughts about their studies at Brandeis. (See story on page 6.) Ruthy is the recipient of a Boca Raton chapter-endowed scholarship in Jewish studies.
Leaders Attend Training Session

BNC chapter leaders from across the country attended the June Leadership Training Program on the Brandeis campus. Participants attended Alumni College, met with Brandeis students, toured the campus, joined the dedication of the BNC lab in the new Shapiro Science Center, and took part in fundraising, membership, and learning opportunities workshops. Here is what attendees had to say about the session.

GLADY SIMON, PHOENIX CHAPTER
“The conference was well planned, educational, and enjoyable, and it conveyed to me what BNC is all about. The concrete experience of seeing the library and the wonderful new science center made the work we do for Brandeis more real. It highlighted the wonderful professors and the enthusiasm of the students. Before, I was a Brandeis mother and the wife of an alum; now I can call Brandeis my own.”

LORRAINE LUBIN AND CECILIA COHEN, DESERT CHAPTER, PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
“Roundtable discussions, becoming acquainted with other chapter members, hearing other points of view, getting ideas on fundraising, membership, and leadership—all of it was immensely worthwhile. We wish more of our members could do the training.”

AUDREY WHITMAN, MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER
“Before the Leadership Training Program, we were all just names; after we came together, we were friends and women on the same path. Seeing the concrete outcomes of fundraising, visiting the science building, walking through the library, touring the BNC offices, attending university/alumni presentations, and learning to speak to an audience correctly are all necessary components to being an effective advocate for BNC and Brandeis.”

National president Carol Kern (left) presents Madeline Faust, a leadership trainee from the Tampa Bay chapter, with a pin as Faust became a Library Benefactor at the Leadership Training Program on the Brandeis campus.

Save the Date:
June 9–11, 2010
Be part of this year’s training and take part in Alumni College.
BNC ANNOUNCES 2009 NATIONAL AWARDS

The Brandeis National Committee has completed another successful year in its sixty-one-year tradition of support for the Brandeis libraries and scholarships. The success of the BNC is due to the perseverance and determination of the fifty-seven BNC chapters across the country. The following chapters received special recognition for their hard work this year.

CHAPTERS OF THE YEAR
Tucson, Arizona
Westlake, New Jersey

LOUIS AWARDS
Staten Island, New York
Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida
Tri-County, New Jersey
Tucson, Arizona
Westlake, New Jersey

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS
Central Westchester, New York
Conejo Valley, California
Fairfield County, Connecticut
Gotham, New York
Harmony, New Jersey
Northern Virginia
South Miami Dade, Florida
Staten Island, New York
Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida
Tucson, Arizona
Westlake, New Jersey

FINANCIAL AWARDS
Atlanta, Georgia
Delray Beach, Florida
Greater Washington, D.C.
Hills, Florida
Kings Point/Tamarac, Florida
Las Vegas, Nevada
Norfolk/Sharon, Massachusetts
Palm Gardens, Florida
Ponds, New Jersey
Seattle, Washington
Staten Island, New York
Tampa Bay/St. Petersburg, Florida
Treasure Coast, Florida
Tri-County, New Jersey
Tucson, Arizona
Ventura, California
Westlake, New Jersey
Wycliffe, Florida

2009 PRESIDENTIAL CHAPTER CITATIONS

BNC President Carol Kern announced special presidential commendations for several chapters.

Conejo Valley
The first BNC chapter in the country to reach its membership goal and went on to have the highest percentage increase in membership.

Desert
Held an outstanding fundraising event that honored an esteemed leader in the chapter and the community. The chapter expanded attendance and broadened the awareness of Brandeis by reaching out to the greater community.

Los Angeles
Achieved the highest net fundraising through its activities.

Santa Clara Valley
Developed an innovative one-day leadership orientation program called “Camp Brandeis.” The event, for seasoned and potential leaders, includes the sharing of ideas and informative discussions about Brandeis University.

Tucson
Showed extraordinary initiative with the creation of an online book sale. Through research and forward thinking, the chapter set the stage for others. Phoenix followed Tucson’s lead and created its own highly successful online bookstore.

2009 PRESIDENTIAL COMMENDATIONS

Kern also recognized the following members for their hard work and dedication.

Phyllis Kornicker
For many years has volunteered her service to both her chapter and region as a president of the Ponds Chapter and copresident of the New York, New Jersey, and Southern Connecticut region. In her role in the region, Kornicker worked closely and effectively with the New Jersey Presidents Council.

Carol Rabinovitz
Formed the new BNC Leadership Council and has fashioned it into a successful program. Rabinovitz developed a pattern of scheduled outreach that has resulted in a group that acts as resources for our chapters, regions, and national organization.
Thanks a Thousand

The Brandeis National Committee thanks donors who made gifts of $1,000 or more between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

$100,000 and Above
Estate of Anne S. Rosenthal

$50,000 to $99,999
The Getz Foundation
Helen B. Ibsen
Joyce and Paul Krasnow
Sylvia Radov Revocable Trust
Lucille Rosenberg

$25,000 to $49,999
Estate of Dorothy M. Jacobson
Yona Kellman
Ruth and Robert King
Estate of Fred Margulies
Harold and Alice Paster
Mitchell B. and Alison Robbins
Joan Schatzow Trust
Shirley Spero

$10,000 to $24,999
Roma Fineberg Kaufman
Carol and Allan Kern
Thomas L. Leeds
Miriam Lewis Levinson
The Wendy Lipton Trust
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Harold and Mary Ann Perper
Ellen R. Plancher
Esther Posin
Dena Robbins
Charles and M. R. Shapiro Foundation
James and Marilyn Simons

$5,000 to $9,999
Lucille K. Carothers
Jean C. Carrus
Dopkin-Singer-Dannenberg Foundation
Lawrence E. Karp
Carol Singer Rabinovitz ’59
Estate of Miriam Rosenblitt
Estate of Dorothy Wittenberg

$1,000 to $4,999
Sumner Alpert
Jack and Sylvia Altman Foundation Inc.
Olga Holman Altman
Basil Anderman Foundation Inc.
Ellen and Simon Atlas
Anonymous

Lydia and Burton Axelrod
Estate of Bernice R. Baker
Frank Bellagente
Lee Berdy
Elaine H. Bernstein
Harriet and Joseph Bloom
Philanthropic Fund
Bookstock
Branching Out in New Directions
Lois and Richard Cohen
Suzanne F. Cohen
Estate of Lillian Colbert
Ethel C. Daub
Florence David
Ann and Abe Effron Fund of the
Community Foundation of
Dutchess County
Ben B. and Joyce E. Eisenberg Foundation
Goldie R. Feldman
Zita Orloff Fine ’55
Janice and Howard Fineman
Madeline B. Foust
Dorothy Frankel
Diana S. Garret
Shirlee and Al Gomer
Estelle Liberman Green
Maxine and Stephen Greenfield
Lynne G. Groban
Michael Hammerschmidt ’72 and
Gary Groth
HarperCollins Publishers Inc.
Irene J. Heiber
Joan Hopner
Bernice Issenberg
Susan Eisenberg Jay ’71
Lynne K. Kane
Carol and Jack Kline Philanthropic Fund
Gwen Knapp
Dorothy H. Kravetz
Milton and Henrietta Kushkin Fund
Lynette K. Lager
Frieda L. Levinsky
Livingston Foundation Inc.
Elinor Lubin
Francoise and Ned Marcus
Barbara and Morris Miller
Andrea Morrison
Sandra C. Oken
Aileen Ososky
Leslie and Arthur Pearlstein
Phyllis and Milt Perkal
Ruth Piken
The Marvel S. Platoff Foundation
Ruth Quint
Stephen R. Reiner ’61 and Patricia Reiner
Dorothy Richards
Karen Richards Sachs ’83
Alyce S. Sadler
Bette R. Sallus
Rosalind Schacknow
Seder Family Foundation
Wolf Shapiro
Cynthia and Leon Shulman
Florence Charwat Simon
Joan and Charles Small
Jeanne Snyder
Rica Spivack
Estate of Frances M. Stolar
Detlev H. Suderow ’70
Lee D. Temkin
Joan Tromba
The Wagner Foundation
Sondra and Oscar Warner
Ruth K. and Ralph G. Webber
Family Foundation
Lynda Weckstein
Tamara Weintraub
Deborah H. Winant
Nancy Winship, ’P’10, ’12
George and Gayle Wise
Arnie Wishnick
Herbert O. Wolfe Foundation
Beth Ann Wolfson ’75 and Joseph Levens

The Brandeis National Committee raised $2,376,404 from chapters and members in FY’09 for the libraries, scholarships, and other university funds—an increase of $270,000 over FY’08.

Help us fulfill the promise and continue our sixty-one-year history of support for Brandeis University. You can make your contribution online at www.brandeis.edu or contact Janice Fineman at 781-736-4179 or fineman@brandeis.edu.
The Encore Series Preview

Blindspot: A Novel
By Jane Kamensky and Jill Lepore
Spiegel & Grau

Historians aren’t supposed to make things up. History weaves its story out of threads of fact. But Blindspot, written by longtime friends and accomplished historians and professors Jane Kamensky, Brandeis University, and Jill Lepore, Harvard University, is a novel.

Blindspot is a romance and a murder mystery that takes place in Boston a decade before the American Revolution. The story started as a character sketch but is written like a novel of the time.

The gentleman is Stewart Jameson, a Scottish portrait painter who has fled Britain because of mysterious debt. He needs a boy to clean his brushes. The lady is Fanny Easton, daughter of a Boston Brahmin. She lost her virtue and her home at sixteen and is almost dead in a workhouse. She sees Jameson’s ad, and presto: her breasts are bound, and Fanny Easton becomes Weston, a boy.

Told largely in letters written by the heroine, the novel alternates with first-person addresses by Jameson to a personalized “careful reader.” Neither character is what he or she seems. Both have notable blind spots about themselves and others.

Join BNC members and see for yourself the fascinating world that Kamensky and Lepore have recreated.

As part of the Encore Series, Blindspot includes a video of a Meet the Author lecture at Brandeis, questions for discussion by Professor Jane Kamensky, and background information.

Want to Further Your Love of Learning?

Tap into the extensive educational opportunities brought to you by the Brandeis National Committee:

- Discover the excitement of a Brandeis classroom through Brandeis faculty-authored study guides and the Study with the Best series.
- Enjoy videotaped presentations from Brandeis faculty and guest speakers with the Encore Series.
- View a unique collection of quality films through ’deis flicks and our partnership with the National Center for Jewish Film.

BNC learning opportunities comprise a diversity of courses, lectures, and programs that meet the unique needs of the adult learner.

For a complete listing, visit www.brandeis.bnc/programming.

New Students Meet the Man Behind Oscar Wao

At this year’s Helen and Philip Brecher New Student Forum, author Junot Díaz talked with the newest Brandeis undergraduates about his writing career and his Pulitzer Prize–winning book, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, which students read over the summer. The New Student Forum serves as a communal experience that introduces students to academic life at Brandeis.

Members of the BNC can join the Class of 2013 and read the book, listen to the author, participate in lively discussions in your chapter, ponder questions prepared by Brandeis faculty members, and be part of the Brandeis community. Books are available for purchase. Contact bnc@brandeis.edu for more information.

Discover the Excitement of Being a Student Again

By visiting the Brandeis Web site, you can “attend” lectures by notables such as Melvin Urofsky, author of Louis D. Brandeis: A Life, and Israeli author Amos Oz. The year has just begun, and the excitement of guest speakers continues.

Point your browser to www.brandeis.edu/now, scroll down the page to “Multimedia,” click “View All,” and enjoy at your convenience.
Professor William Flesch, a specialist in Milton and the Romantic poets, also teaches Shakespeare, film noir, and adolescent literature (which, yes, does include the Harry Potter series). His goal in the classroom is to get students to argue with him. “If you agree with everything I’m saying, I’ve failed,” he says. He takes that philosophy to heart, baiting his students to get them to debate among themselves and asking them to design their papers in the same manner. “Break down an argument made by me or a teaching assistant in class, and convince me why it’s wrong,” he prompts.

In his lectures, Flesch tries to bring the discussion directly to the students on another level: connecting classic texts to pop culture. He draws comparisons between conflict in Shakespeare and Buffy the Vampire Slayer, or a line from a poem and a conversation that occurred in an episode of Lost. “There is great literature, but one of the things that makes it great is what makes for good television shows and fairy tales. It’s all a matter of craft and understanding human beings,” he says.

This kind of approach has endeared him to many students, who have followed his classes so closely that they have termed themselves “Flesch Heads” or joke that they “major in Flesch.”

Julian Olidort ’11 says he “wears the title [of Flesch Head] with pride.” He already has taken four classes with Flesch in the three semesters he has been at Brandeis.

Olidort is not alone. Julia Tejblum ’08 came to Brandeis hating English courses. But after one Flesch class she was hooked. Six Flesch classes later (with a smattering of other English courses in there to complete the major), she graduated with highest honors in the school’s English program and started her Oxford coursework toward a PhD in English literature this fall.

Though Flesch remains close with some former students, he hasn’t let his popularity alter his approach—he’s just glad people are invested in his subject.

Check out Flesch’s latest study guide, “Philip Roth’s Late Work.”

Also by William Flesch
• “Fathers and Sons: Toward Hamlet” ($103)
• “Fathers and Daughters: Toward King Lear and Beyond” ($104)
• “Is The Merchant of Venice Anti-Semitic?” (B13)
• “Between the Generations: Six Contemporary North American Short Stories”
• “Six More Contemporary North American Short Stories” ($115)
• “The Twentieth-Century Novel” ($105)

For more information on Brandeis faculty-authored study group materials, visit www.brandeis.edu/bnc and click on “Learning Opportunities” and “Study with the Best,” or contact Beth Bernstein, director of programming and publications, at 781-736-4190 or bernstein@brandeis.edu.

STUDY WITH THE BEST
William Flesch, Professor of English and American Literature

Shakespeare Meets Buffy
By Dina Fine Maron ’08
Reprinted from Newsweek.com

Would you like to attend a wonderful lecture in your own home?

Hundreds of Brandeis alumni and friends from around the world are taking part in live lectures as part of the Faculty Lecture Forum.

The Faculty Lecture Forum brings the richness of the Brandeis classroom experience to the off-campus community. Through a simulcast, distinguished Brandeis faculty members discuss relevant topics of the day.

For more information on upcoming lectures, check out the BNC Web site at www.brandeis.edu/bnc.

You can also view past lectures, including those by:

• Reuven Kimelman, professor of Near Eastern and Judaic studies, “The Seduction of Eve: Why Did She Do It?”
• David Hackett Fischer, the Earl Warren Professor of History, “A Third Way of Teaching History.”
• Gregory Petsko, the Gyula and Katica Tauber Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacodynamics, “What Happens to Our Brains as We Age, and What We’re Trying to Do About It.”
• Steve Whitfield, Max Richter Professor of American Civilization, “Obama and the Democratic Dilemma: Populism or Elitism?”

Visit www.brandeis.edu/bnc/programming/forums to watch these lectures.
Put your assets to work for you and for Brandeis.

Do it for you—and do it for the students.

Receive between 5.3 percent and 9.5 percent annual annuity income for life from a Brandeis Charitable Gift Annuity.

For current rates or for the wording to ensure that a bequest is directed to Brandeis or its libraries, contact Janice Fineman, executive director of the Brandeis National Committee, at 781-736-4190 or fineman@brandeis.edu.

Mail to:
Brandeis University
Brandeis National Committee
PO Box 549110, MS 132
Waltham, MA 02454-9110

I am interested in (check all that apply):

☐ Including Brandeis/BNC in my will
☐ Establishing a life-income gift
☐ I have already included Brandeis/BNC in my estate plans

Mail to:
Brandeis University
Brandeis National Committee
PO Box 549110, MS 132
Waltham, MA 02454-9110