



BRANDEIS
UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
COMMITTEE

*Dedicated to the support
of Brandeis University
and its Libraries*

imprint

WINTER 2005 ■ VOLUME 25 ■ NUMBER 2

Class of 2008

Sharing a Passion for Learning, Helping the World

Building houses for the poor...teaching orphans in Africa...unlocking the mysteries of DNA and polio-virus...diving into Puget Sound to save the lingcod population—these are a few of the accomplishments of the outstanding class of 2008. Energizing the campus with the same passion for learning, insatiable curiosity, and desire to make the world a better place that have always characterized Brandeis students, the 766 members of this new class are a well-rounded lot who pursue wide-ranging interests, combining DNA research with the swim team, crew with competitive piano, and scuba diving with playwriting.

Zhe Cheng Zhao, a math and science whiz from Westborough, Massachusetts, also founded the break dancing group at his high school. Oze Henig of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania has a passion for music, science, and sports and has logged hundreds of hours of community service. He reflects the attitude of his classmates when he says, "I'm interested in just about everything."



Sara Milstein '08 during her internship for United States Senator Diane Feinstein.

Sara Milstein, a politics major who worked as an intern for United States Senator Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.), says she is "inordinately passionate" about traveling, reading, writing short stories, philosophy, music (guitar/piano), debate team, photography, French, and civil rights history.

Advanced computer skills led to

*"In the great
Brandeis tradition, we
continue to attract well-rounded,
yet original thinkers, young people
who are compassionate members
of their communities and
enthusiastic about the
world around them."*

MARTY KRAUSS
PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

that has attracted more than 100 readers from around the country.

Justice Brandeis Scholar Adrienne Johnson of Tacoma, Washington learned to scuba dive through a very select four-year marine chemistry program at her high school and then dove into an extensive research project on the nesting habits of the dwindling Puget Sound lingcod population. Also an accomplished oboe player, playwright, and theater director who plans to study medieval history at Brandeis, she declares: "I really, really love it here!"

"Our admissions are becoming increasingly selective and this class is a reflection of that," reports Marty Krauss, Brandeis provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. "The number of applications is up and we are accepting only about 40 percent of applicants. In the great Brandeis tradition, we continue to attract well-rounded, yet original thinkers, young people who are compassionate members of their communities and enthusiastic about the world around them."

Benjamin Douglas's summer project in which he helped a world-renowned computer scientist develop a 3D model of how the mind works in order to help people solve their personal problems in a visual way. He has also designed web sites for businesses and ran the Japanese animation club at his high school in San Jose, California. An avid writer, he keeps a daily online journal

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BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

imprint

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imprint is published for the members of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee. We welcome reports of chapter accomplishments and information about members that would be of interest to our readers. Materials submitted for publication should be type-written and include a contact name, phone number, and email address, if available. Photographs should be fully identified on a separate piece of paper.

DEADLINE:
March 1, 2005

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PRESIDENTIAL

Perspective

BY JOYCE KRASNOW



"ASK NOT WHAT BUNWC CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR BUNWC." I paraphrase President Kennedy when he delivered this powerful message to the nation. I adapt his message for BUNWC for I fear that at this time in our history, we have lost the purpose of our founding mothers. It seems to me that we have become more involved in receiving member services than in supporting our great mission. We must recommit ourselves to our original purpose of philanthropy and then reward and enjoy ourselves with our unique programming.

The Brandeis University National Women's Committee is a truly unique organization with an important purpose. We provide financial support for Brandeis University and its Libraries. We connect our members and their communities to our University through programs that reflect the ideals of social justice and academic excellence.

One of the perks as president of the National Women's Committee is having the opportunity to visit with members across the country. In my travels, I am constantly reminded that the National Women's Committee is not a big entity that just runs on momentum, but an association of thousands of individuals who bring their passion and special talents to the job of meeting our commitment to support Brandeis University. Indeed, the manner in which we conduct the day-to-day business of our individual chapters and the enthusiasm each member brings to our mission has a major impact on the success of the organization of which we are all a part. We cannot achieve our goals without the commitment of each and every member.

From its founding in 1948, Brandeis has met the great hopes and expectations of its founders, elevating in stature until it has become one of the top universities in the nation. It attracts the finest students from around the globe who attend Brandeis for its academic excellence and nurturing atmosphere. It enlists a faculty with extraordinary credentials and has produced alumni of renowned reputation.

Every human need is addressed at Brandeis where world-class medical research offers promise of conquering some of the world's worst diseases; where students come together to learn how to resolve conflicts around the world; and where many programs build professionals who make their mark in health and social welfare, medicine, law, politics, Jewish education, and many other fields. Brandeis does make and will continue to make a difference.

The National Women's Committee has contributed much to these accomplishments. For 56 years we have built and stocked the University's Libraries. We are now making it possible for many talented students to attend Brandeis by providing funds for scholarships and fellowships.

To remain strong, each one of us needs to rededicate ourselves (to our mission). We need to re-educate ourselves to our purpose.

Our National Teams are working hard on every aspect of fundraising, leadership, membership, programming, and administration. Now, I ask you to do your part. Make a commitment to go to at least one meeting of your chapter this year. Choose a study group to provide you intellectual stimulation. Attend events and support them with your dollars. Become involved in our mission by giving your financial support and by soliciting support from others. "Experience the Excellence" of Brandeis by attending our extraordinary conference in June!

IN MEMORIAM

ROSE MARGOLIS, the eighth president of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee (1964-1967), has died. One of the first women to join the organization in 1949 to support its efforts to build a library for Brandeis, she served as president of the Boston Chapter from 1957 to 1960, and as a member of the national board and a national vice president prior to her election as president in 1964. Donations in her memory may be sent to the national office.

New Chapters Blooming

New Groups in Florida, New York, and New Jersey Signal Future of NWC

Hundreds of women and men looking for intellectual stimulation and like-minded friends are flocking to National Women's Committee (NWC) organizational meetings in the high-growth regions of Florida and the many new retirement communities of New Jersey and New York.

Sixty enthusiasts attended the first meeting of The Greens Chapter-in-Formation on Long Island, mostly working women who plan to hold night meetings. Half joined on the spot. Advertisements for an organizational meeting in the Lake Worth/Lantana/Wellington area of Florida, drew 50 people.

The Gesher Chapter-in-Formation, a bi-lingual Latin group made up primarily of professional couples who meet at night and communicate strictly by email, attracted 70 people to a recent event. Led by an architect from Argentina and a vice president of a financial services firm who is from Argentina and Israel, Gesher, the Hebrew word for "bridge," has already held several programs and took part in National Study Group Month in October. Another international group, Las Flores (featured in the Fall 2004 *Imprint*), has 36 members.

Florida expansion, under the leadership of Region President Charlotte Schiff, is being guided by newly-appointed expansion chair, Marion Levin, assisted by Ruth Jatkoff and Dottie Pierce, national vice president and chair of the national membership team. To tap into the demand, NWC President Joyce Krasnow has launched an aggressive membership drive, with the help of her able and enthusiastic lieutenants, Dottie Pierce (Boca Raton) and Barbara Selwyn (Boston), staff director of marketing and member services, who are being aided by many NWC members who want to continue their membership in the areas to which they have relocated.

"I always wanted to join Brandeis!" Bea Handler told Charlotte Levitan when they met at the Four Seasons retirement community in Upper Freehold, New Jersey. Levitan had belonged to the Middlesex County, NJ Chapter before moving to Four Seasons, an adult community of 350 homes. Now Handler and Levitan have joined four other women to organize a chapter they plan to name Tri-County. Dottie Pierce, who has made several visits to these burgeoning groups in the past six months, led a study group at Tri-County's first regular meeting based on one of Professor Andreas Teuber's brieflets. Another group is forming at the Four Seasons retirement community in Jackson, New Jersey.

"We're determined to build membership among a younger and, in some cases, new type of population, such as the international and Latin groups in Florida," says Dottie Pierce. "These newcomers are being drawn by the same things our members have loved about National Women's Committee for half a century, starting with study groups."

Many veteran NWC members are helping as well. Edie Platsky, a co-president of the Trails, FL Chapter, made 50 calls to people she knew after she moved to The Greens community on Long Island and



THE GREENS Standing (L-R): Co-president Enid Darrigo, Lenore Kagan, Gert Siegel, Roberta Hirsch, and Co-president Carol Flyer. Seated (L-R): Jane Rosen, Lennie Karmen, Co-president Natalie Scharf, Karen Thaler, and Jerie Charnow.

helped organize and run the initial meeting. National Board Members Bernice Smilowitz and Bobby Ehrlich lent their considerable expertise to the first organizational meeting of the Tri-County group. Spanish-speaking Fanny Handel, a former co-president of the Flagler/Volusia, FL Chapter, helped start the Gesher group.

For information on starting new chapters, contact Barbara Selwyn at 781-736-4168 (bselwyn@brandeis.edu) or Dottie Pierce at 561-852-9720 (dottiepierce@bellsouth.net).

Give a Gift of Membership!



Have a birthday or special event to celebrate?

Invited to lunch or dinner and looking for a gift?

Has someone done something special for you?

**Give BUNWC membership . . .
the perfect gift
for any occasion.**



BRANDEIS
UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
COMMITTEE

TO ORDER GIFT CARDS TODAY CONTACT YOUR CHAPTER
OR CALL THE NATIONAL OFFICE AT 781-736-4160

Mission

To provide financial support for Brandeis University and its Libraries. It connects Brandeis, a non-sectarian university founded by the American Jewish community, to its members and their communities through programs that reflect the ideals of social justice and academic excellence.

NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

The National Women's Committee staff, located on the Brandeis campus, provides administrative, programming, fundraising and membership support for the entire organization. Please contact the following staff members with any questions or concerns or email bunwc@brandeis.edu

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Giving and Getting

BRANDEIS OFFERS GREAT RETURN ON ANNUITIES

Where else are you going to get an 8 percent return on your investment?" Anita Genest continually asks members of the Los Angeles Chapter when she talks about planned giving. Chairman of planned gifts for the Chapter, Genest promotes the benefits of planned giving—to the donor and to Brandeis—at every board and chapter meeting and every other chance she gets.

Thanks to her and Shirley Pollock, who has been major gifts chairman for several years, donors have gotten the message, leading to eight gifts from chapter members over the last few months. "My gift of \$30,000 created quite a stir in the chapter," Genest relates, "and started people talking. Even my sister, who is not a member but understands my devotion to Brandeis, made a gift. She is in her eighties and receives an 8.8 percent return on her single life annuity.

"Like many members my age, my children are not waiting for my money," she pointed out. "They have been taken care of. What better investment is there at our age than a planned gift to Brandeis, which is now providing a return from six percent at age 65 to 11.3 percent at age 90?"

Florence Liebman, a member of the National Women's Committee for only two years, explains her gift this way: "It is a pleasure and a privilege to be 'connected' to Brandeis University. As volunteers, we often say we get more than we give, and so it was with the thought of 'giving back' that I decided to support Brandeis with my annuity. I won't deny that the 8.8 percent return was also an attraction!"

Liebman adds that her grandson, now a senior at Brandeis, inspired her with his enthusiasm, his respect for his teachers, and the opportunity

Brandeis has given him to experience so many areas of education and "life."

Lorraine Sax, who made her first planned gift this year, says, "I had so many friends making planned gifts, it sounded like a good financial plan for me, as well as an opportunity to make a special contribution to Brandeis." A retired school principal, Sax joined the National Women's Committee 15 years ago at the suggestion of a colleague. "I can't say enough about the women of Brandeis," she adds, "and now the men, too! We have a very active men's group and they have become a national model for all the other Brandeis chapters."

Elayne Wexler, an active member since 1981, also made a planned gift this year. "I've always loved Brandeis," she declares with great enthusiasm, "and we believe in education." Co-president of the Chapter when Los Angeles won the Chapter of the Year award, Wexler has put her business background to work for the Chapter. The originator of the Chapter's very successful boutique and the Tribute Book, which augments the Authors and Celebrities Day, she has raised thousands of dollars for Brandeis.

Despite all she does for the chapter, Wexler says her involvement with the National Women's Committee has rewarded her "ten-fold. This is the best support group I've ever had or ever wanted," she reports. "When my husband died five years ago, my daughter looked around at the 200-300 people at the funeral and said her dad would wonder who all those people were. They were friends from Brandeis. They're marvelous!"

See back page of this newsletter for information about current rates, and for more information on planned giving contact Judy Diamond at 781-736-4167 (jdiamond@brandeis.edu).

Update

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BRANDEIS: CREATING CONNECTIONS

THREE GENEROUS BEQUESTS

Three generous bequests have brought the National Women's Committee (NWC) almost two-thirds of the way toward its \$27.5 million commitment to The Campaign for Brandeis, while helping provide for the lifeblood of the Library's \$5.9 million budget—annual operating funds. Annual library support, which covers salaries, collections, and technology, represents two-thirds of the Campaign goal, because these are the funds that keep the Libraries running.

"A first-class library has been at the heart of Brandeis from the University's founding," NWC President Joyce Krasnow points out, "a library built on high-quality staff, excellent collections, and state-of-the-art technology. Nothing is more important to helping the Brandeis Libraries continue to meet those goals than predictable, generous, unrestricted funding, and we are very grateful for these gifts."

The gifts included bequests for \$389,948 from Margot Meyer of the Chicago Chapter, \$190,000 from the Mitchell and Shirley Raskin Trust, and \$50,000 from Clarice Silk of the Manhattan Chapter. Raskin was a member of the Peninsula, CA Chapter.

Margot Meyer was an active member of the Chicago Chapter for more than 20 years. A generous donor to the Libraries, she was involved in the Chicago Chapter Gala, often filling three or four tables with her friends

and covering all the costs herself.

A closer look at Library operations reveals how critical annual library support from the National Women's Committee is. Information resources in all formats—print, electronic, microfilm, music and film—and of all types—books, journals, CDs, DVDs, and videos—account for half the Library budget. It costs approximately \$100,000 yearly to maintain and upgrade desktop computers, software, and servers. The invaluable Library Work Scholars Program (student assistants) requires \$365,000 per year.

Reference, instruction, and outreach are also covered by the annual operating budget. Nationally known for its outstanding reference service, librarians answered 12,939 reference questions last year, in person and online, provided 3,122 research consultations, and led the way in establishing a national 24/7 reference service. They also taught 128 courses and workshops and conducted 81 tours.

"The costs of information resources continue to increase at unpredictable rates," reports Acting

University Librarian Sue Wawrzaszek. "Some increases this year have been as high as 143 percent. Our challenge is to maintain a selection of information resources that meets the teaching and research needs of the Brandeis community. We need strong, continued support from the National Women's Committee to be able to do this."

BRANDEIS *Celebrating the Life of the Mind*

ANNUAL LIBRARY SUPPORT

GOAL \$14.8 million RAISED \$10.9 million

JOURNALS TO ADVANCE MEDICAL RESEARCH

GOAL: \$600,000 RAISED \$22,000

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY ENDOWED FUND

GOAL \$5 million RAISED \$2.6 million

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

GOAL \$1 million RAISED \$7.4 million

CAMPAIGN UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

EXPERIENCE THE

Campus Shines with New Buildings, Promise of More

THE NEW ABRAHAM SHAPIRO ACADEMIC COMPLEX brings together under one roof several important academic research centers at Brandeis: the Crown Center for Middle East Studies; the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life;

the Education Program; the Hebrew and Arabic Languages Program; the Brandeis Investigative Journalism Institute; and the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education.

The Crown Center will significantly broaden scholarship of the Middle East by promoting research on the history, politics, economics, religions, cultures, and institutions of the entire area of the Arab world, Israel, Turkey, and Iran. Other projects in the planning or construction stages are the Schneider Building, a significant addition to the Heller School, continuing renovation of the Usdan Student Center, a new superconducting magnet facility for use by researchers in biochemistry and chemistry, and \$25 million in campus infrastructure improvements. On the drawing board is the Safra Fine Arts Center, expected to include a major new facility as well as renovation of existing facilities.



NEW NWC BOOK-MARKS feature (pictured, from top to bottom) former Texas Governor Ann Richards; Nobel Prize winner Roderick MacKinnon '78; Trustee and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Tom Friedman '75; and (not pictured) Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz, former US Secretary of Labor and Brandeis University professor Robert Reich, and Associate Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis. Bookmarks are available from the national office.

Three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, **Thomas L. Friedman** '75 is foreign affairs columnist for The New York Times; author of *Longitudes and Attitudes*, *The World in the Age of Terrorism*, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, and *From Beirut to Jerusalem*; and a Trustee of Brandeis University.

Leading Women's Health Expert to Receive Sachar Award

Rear Admiral Susan Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A., former U.S. Assistant Surgeon General and a pioneer and champion in bringing women's health issues to the attention of the public and the scientific community, will receive the Abram L. Sachar Silver Medallion at the National Women's Committee Conference at Brandeis on Saturday, June 4. The Sachar Medallion is awarded annually in honor of Abram L. Sachar, founding president of Brandeis, to a person who has made outstanding contributions to education.



The first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Blumenthal was a major force in moving women's health to the forefront of the nation's health care agenda and developed many innovative initiatives including the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, the National Women's Health Information Center and the "From Missiles to Mammograms" program

that transferred CIA, DOD and NASA imaging technology to improve breast cancer detection. She also served as Senior Medical and E-Health Advisor in HHS where her work focussed on global health issues and the national response to terrorism.

As a Distinguished Visiting Professor in Women's Studies at Brandeis and a national leader who has been at the forefront of applying information technology to improve health, she developed www.4college-women.org with Brandeis undergraduates, the first comprehensive website for health information for college-age women. The site provides a portal to thousands of important, trustworthy, and noncommercial health resources, materials, news, and statistics.

Blumenthal is also currently a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown and Tufts Schools of Medicine and a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

The BUNWC Conference gives participants an opportunity to network with chapter, region, and national leaders from across the country, attend faculty lectures and workshops, tour the campus and Libraries, and meet top University administrators.

For additional information and registration materials, contact Barbara Katz at 781-736-4164 (katz@brandeis.edu).

EXCELLENCE

CONFERENCE
2005
JUNE 1-5

CONFERENCE 2005

Come Early, Stay Late

*Learn a Lot and Add to Your
Conference Experience*

JUNE 1

BUNWC Boston Duck Tour

The most fun you'll ever have on a city tour! See Boston by land and by sea in a World War II amphibious landing vehicle. Cruise by all the places that make Boston the birthplace of freedom and a city of firsts. And just when you think



you've seen it all, you'll "Splashdown" as your ConDUCKtor takes your DUCK right into the Charles River for a breathtaking view of the Boston and Cambridge skylines.

JUNE 6-9

Brandeis Courses in Journalism, Art

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to take a Brandeis course through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis (BOLLI). Professor Michael Socolow, director of the journalism program, will discuss the culture of journalism and Nancy Scott, professor of fine arts, will lead a study of the arts. Both courses will meet from 9 am-noon, Monday, June 6 through Thursday, June 9. Choose one.

For more information on cost, content, and how to register, contact Beth Bernstein, M.A., '90, director of programming and publications, at 781-736-4190 (bernstein@brandeis.edu).

Brandeis University
National Women's Committee

Come to Brandeis
and Experience the
Excellence

BUNWC Conference

June 1-5, 2005

Experience...

- The Brandeis campus
- The Libraries
- The Brandeis faculty

Meet...

- President Jehuda Reinharz
- Our 2005 Sachar Award recipient, Dr. Susan Blumenthal
- Old friends and new

Participate...

In stimulating workshops and networking sessions

"What an extraordinary campus!"

"Boston is beautiful in the springtime."

"The professors were outstanding, making me proud of the university I support"

Experience the Excellence

Registration is \$350. Early bird discount is \$325.

Please send me information on Conference 2005

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Chapter _____

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**Click a Button for Ancient Texts, Colonial Diaries, Movie Scripts**

Among the thousands of pages of historical newspapers online at Brandeis is incontrovertible evidence that only the *New York Times* got it right when the Titanic went down. “A *Times* reporter was at Western Union in London when a message came in that the ship was sinking,” Associate University Librarian Robert Evensen explains. “All of the other major papers got it wrong. They reported that it hit an iceberg, but that all was okay.”

That front-page story is just one entry in the full run of historical newspapers available to Brandeis students and scholars. These digitized images include every page of the *New York Times* from 1851, the *Wall Street Journal* (1889-1987), the *Washington Post* (1877-1988), the *Chicago Tribune* (1890-1956), and the *Los Angeles Times* (1881-1984). The Brandeis Libraries are continuing to add the later years of the papers to the database.

“The database is indexed so that the user can search it by date, city, event, or any number of other ways,” Evensen adds. “This is a very important database for us because students at Brandeis are usually required to use primary or original source materials for their research.”

A database on the Dead Sea Scrolls takes scholars back much farther, to the Judean Desert, from c. 300 B.C.E. to 135 C.E., and provides information on the textual transmission of the Hebrew Bible, and on the literary and historical background of Ancient Judaism and early Christianity. It contains digitized images of fragments of the scrolls and includes a great deal of information on non-religious scrolls for research into the archaeology, politics, and social issues of the time.

The North American Women’s Letters and Diaries: Colonial to 1950 database takes scholars through two hundred years of American history with digitized images of 150,000 pages of personal diaries. Detailing

the experiences of 1325 women, this priceless record was formerly available only on microfilm, much of it illegible. It includes, for example, young Mary Almy’s hour-by-hour account of the dramatic arrival of 11 French warships in Newport, Rhode Island harbor in July, 1778 and the horror of the townspeople who dropped everything and locked their doors for fear of a foraging expedition.

“This collection provided the inspiration for my dissertation,” recalls Molly McCarthy, who received her Ph.D. in American history from Brandeis and now teaches at Wellesley College. “It was in the collection that I found a cache of ‘pocket diaries,’ commercial diaries that resembled today’s Filofaxes. Women used them to organize their expenses and found space at the same time to write about themselves. My dissertation explores the various uses to which men and women of the nineteenth century put these diaries.”

One of the Libraries’s newer databases, American Film Scripts Online, sheds light on


the politics, economics, education, and culture of America through the films of the twentieth century. From the silent movies of the 1920s to more recent cinema, this database of 386 scripts will eventually grow to include more than 1000.

“The Brandeis Libraries spent \$750,000 this year, or one-quarter of its acquisitions budget, on electronic resources, including 150 databases such as those described here,” Robert Evensen points out. “These are invaluable resources for students and faculty, not only because they are so efficient to use, but because, unlike printed material, they can contain almost unlimited amounts of information. They can also be organized and indexed in such a way that the researcher can quickly access just the material he or she needs.”

The National Women’s Committee funds technology in the Brandeis Libraries through its Library Technology Fund and its Library Technology Endowed Fund. For information, contact Judy Diamond at 781-736-4167 (jdiamond@brandeis.edu).

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Brandeis Founding President Abe Sachar with John F. Kennedy and Eleanor Roosevelt on the set of “Prospects of Mankind,” a public television series hosted by Roosevelt and filmed on the Brandeis campus. This photo from the Brandeis Archives was taken on the day Kennedy announced his candidacy for President.

 The hearts of members of the Brandeis community go out to the thousands of families who have lost so much in the devastation of the tsunami in Asia.

Hunger in America

Brandeis Filling the Need

In America, the land of plenty, more than 30 million people, including 13 million children, are not getting enough to eat on a regular basis. This includes the “working poor.” Almost 40 percent of households served by food banks include someone who is working.

Children make up almost 40 percent of all emergency food clients and research shows that even mild under-nutrition experienced by young children during critical periods of growth may lead to reductions in physical growth and affect brain development.

Following the Brandeis commitment to further social justice, the National Women’s Committee (NWC) is fighting this intractable problem through its kNOw Hunger program, launched in partnership with the Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis. Chapters and members are joining local hunger coalitions, collecting food, and supporting food banks and youth organizations, and introducing the kNOw Hunger curriculum and Community Service Learning program to middle and high schools and after-school programs.

Hunger and food insecurity know no boundaries, NWC members in affluent Palm Beach County, Florida have found. “In Palm Beach County, home of one of the wealthiest cities in America, the number of working-poor families with someone who ate less or skipped eating altogether is twice as high as the national average,” Florida Region President Charlotte Schiff reports. “And children are three times as likely to go hungry here than they are nationally.”

Helene Zimmerman, a member of the



“We have the wherewithal to feed all these children, and we must.”

HELENE ZIMMERMAN
WEST END, FL CHAPTER

West End Chapter, has been the force behind her chapter’s efforts to address this problem. The Florida Region, under the auspices of Charlotte Schiff, joined the Palm Beach County Hunger Coalition of organizations and agencies. This led to its involvement in a summer lunch program for children eligible for school free lunch. Through an effort now coordinated by Zimmerman, 40 NWC members help serve 150 lunches per day and tutor and mentor the chil-

dren on a rotating basis. Schiff’s goal is to have chapters in other counties in Florida form county hunger coalitions or join existing ones. She is presently working with Brevard County on this effort.

“I learned through my career in community social work that you have to form partnerships with community agencies and other organizations in order to get anything done,” Zimmerman points out. “We can’t do this alone.” Members of the chapter also bring canned goods to every meeting, which is then picked up and distributed by food pantries. Zimmerman is spreading the message to condominium complexes. She has distributed supermarket bags with a “Feed Your Hungry Neighbors” logo, asking residents involved in social issues to donate food at meetings.

“We have the wherewithal to feed all these children,” Zimmerman declares, “and we must.”

For information and assistance in fighting hunger in your community, contact Beth Bernstein, M.A. ’90 at 781-736-4190 (bernstein@brandeis.edu).

A RECENT REPORT by the U.S. Department of Agriculture stating that hunger now threatens 36.3 million Americans has prompted Dr. J. Larry Brown, director of the Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis, to call upon President Bush “for emergency legislation to get this epidemic under control.” Brown, an author and recognized scholarly authority on domestic hunger and its impact on families and children, described the government’s recent report “unexpected...even stunning.”



Dr. J. Larry Brown



BUNWC ACADEMY WELCOMES FIRST CLASS

Twenty-three National Women's Committee members participated in the first BUNWC Academy, held on the Brandeis campus last fall. Participants came from all over the country for a two-day immersion in Brandeis University culture, academics, and research, as well as the National Women's Committee mission and operations. The program was designed to develop a new generation of leaders for the organization.

ATLANTA's Marilyn Shubin welcomed Brandeis professor Thomas Doherty of the Film Studies Program and author of *Cold War, Cool Medium: Television, McCarthyism, and American Culture*. Doherty was named a 2003 Academy Film Scholar by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science, the organization that awards the Oscars.



got email?

Let Us Know

Get connected . . .to Brandeis activities. Please email your name, email address, chapter, and region to BUNWCnews@brandeis.edu.



2004 Louis Award

The **MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL CHAPTER** earned a Louis Award in fiscal year 2004. The 800-member chapter met its membership and fund raising goals for the year under the able and determined leadership of President Carolyn Latz. Due to publication deadlines, the chapter's name was not included in the Louis Awards list in the Fall 2004 issue of *Imprint*.

The **MEADOWBROOK, NY** Book and Author Luncheon featured (far left) Jack Bilello (*I Still Love You, Joni James*) and Barbara Rogan (*Hindsight*). Thomas Maier (*America's Emerald Kings*) is in center. Others pictured (L-R) are co-chairs Rosalie Meltzer, Nina Grosswirth, and Phyllis Paley.



The Brandeis Used Book Store in **LAKE WORTH, FL**, celebrating its first anniversary, has donated surplus books to Gateways, a program that provides reading materials to incarcerated youths. Ruth Levine (right) is shown at the store with Kimberly Hale, founder of Gateways. The books will be used by girls aged 13 to 21 in a library setting.



WEST END, FLORIDA

Dynamic Duos

Supporting a wide-brimmed hat with her feather boa flung over one shoulder, Mae West assured her interviewer, Barbara Walters: “When I’m good I’m very, very good, but when I’m bad, I’m better.” That phrase, coined by the larger-than-life 1930s screen star, was actually rolling off the sultry tongue of 75-year old Lila Goldworm, who performed the role of West for the West End Chapter’s very popular “Dynamic Duos.”

Arline Gold started Dynamic Duos three years ago with fellow member Evelyn Hirsch. Many of the skits, which usually attract about 80 people, portray interviews by Barbara Walters or the famous gossip columnist Elsa Maxwell, or re-enact conversations between intriguing people such as Mary Cassatt and Georgia O’Keeffe. Members Frances Portnoy and Shelley Farbstein portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt and Hillary Clinton in conversation for the first performance. Doreen Gellman, who has been writing and performing for the series for two years, played Elsa Maxwell in an interview with Maria Callas and Jackie Onassis.

“We don’t strive to be an exact replica of the character,” says Goldworm, who has portrayed West and Maria Callas, “but we will have voice inflections and physical movements. We try to portray the essence of the character.”



Lila Goldworm as Mae West

PHOTO: SUN SENTINEL

CONCORDIA, NJ’s Islamic Study Group broadened their knowledge of the religion by visiting the Islamic Society of Central Jersey’s mosque and meeting with the imam.

GREATER BOSTON’s Book and Author Luncheon featured Adam Braver’s *Divine Sarah*, a fictional account of a week in the life of Sarah Bernhardt, and Thomas J. Cottle’s memoir of his mother’s abandoned career as a concert pianist, *When the Music Stopped: Discovering My Mother*.

MEADOWBROOK, NY took a long trip down memory lane with an original fundraising program, “Times of our Lives,” attended by 250 people. Members contributed memorabilia, artifacts, and personal treasures from the 1920s through the 1990s, which were put on display, and preserved clothing, which was modeled by members of the planning committee. A professional tap-dance group, the “Red Hot Mamas,” provided entertainment.

NASSAU NORTH, NY opened its season with two interesting speakers. NWC member Claire Salah Lederer shared her experiences growing up in Iraq. Dr. Arthur Liebman of New York University spoke on “Yiddish Theatre from Second Avenue to Sunset Boulevard.”

SOUTH DADE, FL members enjoyed guided tours of two exceptional exhibits, “Stories Untold: Jewish Pioneer Women 1850-1910,” and “Jewish Mothers: Strength, Wisdom, Compassion” at a local JCC. The first included documents, letters, memoirs and artifacts documenting the experiences of Jewish immigrant women who were driven west by poverty, persecution, and hope. The latter included photographs of American Jewish mothers by Lloyd Wolf.

A Gift of Music

Gifts to Brandeis come in many different packages. A recent unexpected donation, for example, was music to the ears of the volunteers working at the North Miami Book Store in Florida. A local gentleman wanted his beautiful circa-1840 violin and his valuable music to go to Brandeis. After he died, the person entrusted with this gift found the book store in the telephone book. The violin has been appraised at \$5,000 by a reputable dealer. The National Women’s Committee has five used book stores, in Boston, Miami, Phoenix, Boca Raton, and Green Acres (Lake Worth area of Florida).

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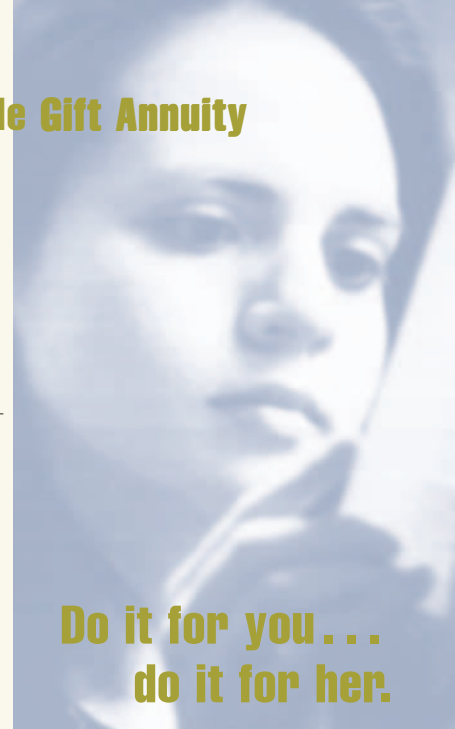
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*Returns on single-life annuities ranged from 6 percent (at age 65) to 11.3 percent (age 90), as of 1/31/05. For current interest rates or for the wording to ensure that a bequest is directed to Brandeis or its Libraries, contact Judy Diamond, Brandeis University National Women's Committee, P.O.Box 549110, MS 132, Waltham, MA 02454-9110, 781-736-4167 or jdiamond@brandeis.edu.



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