Dear Waltham Group Member,

Now that we have concluded our terms – both as co-presidents of the Waltham Group and as Brandeis students – we find ourselves reflecting on everything that we’ve done over the past few months and years. It has been a year of great change for the Waltham Group, with a new leadership development structure and the establishment of many new programs. Over the course of the year, we have had the pleasure to both watch and facilitate great growth that we hope to see continue in the future. We may be finishing up our tenures, but the Waltham Group will continue to thrive with great student leaders and amazing work being done every single day. It gives us great pleasure to see the new co-presidents, Mitchell Beers ’17 and Krishna Narayanan ’17, already showing leadership in a way we feel will help the Waltham Group continue to prosper.

We encourage you to read this newsletter to see the growth that the Waltham Group has enjoyed in the last year. We hope for your continuous support, and to see you at the 50th anniversary celebration on Oct. 8-9.

Sincerely,
Don’t forget that the Waltham Group’s 50th anniversary celebration will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8 and 9, with a gala on the night of Oct. 8. Even if you cannot make it to campus, there will be events planned throughout the fall in many different cities, so watch for more info on a Waltham Group project coming to you.

In its long history, the Waltham Group has played a significant, positive role in the lives of Brandeis students and Waltham citizens alike. With the 50th anniversary celebration, we will honor the work of past Waltham Group participants and leaders, celebrate the many partnerships that have been born as a result of their efforts, and look forward to another 50 years of growth, positive change in the Waltham community, and learning on campus. The weekend will include service projects around Waltham, a family carnival, speakers, a late night social and a gala.

Silent auction – The Waltham Group is seeking donations for a silent auction that will be held at the Waltham Group 50th Anniversary. Do you craft or work for a company that can donate an item? Any and all goods and services are gladly accepted. All money raised from this event will go to the Waltham Group. We are seeking donations to a silent auction that will be held during the anniversary weekend. Contact Lara Solinsky or Nate Rosenblum if you are interested in donating an item or service.

T-Shirt design contest – Calling all creative minds, artists and active citizens! Do you want to go down in history as the designer of the Waltham Group 50th anniversary T-shirt, which will be sold at the Brandeis Bookstore? The winning designer will have their photo, biography and motivation statement featured next to the T-shirt display, and the satisfaction of knowing that a portion of the profits from sales will be donated to the Waltham Group. The winner will also receive five free T-shirts. Contest guidelines:

1. The T-shirt must represent the mission and overarching goals of the Waltham Group.
2. Ink must be ONE color, which complements either a Brandeis royal blue or gray T-shirt.
3. The design must fill the front of the T-shirt (the back will be empty).
4. The design must clearly include “Waltham Group 50th Anniversary” and “Brandeis
University."
5. The design must be done in vector/illustrator and be sent as a high-resolution PDF or JPG. If you would like to use another design program, email Lucas Malo.
6. All designs must be submitted to Lucas by 5 p.m. on July 20. Submissions will be reviewed by staff, students and alumni.

**50K for the 50th** – In celebration of our 50th anniversary, the Waltham Group has set a goal to raise $50,000. This money will go to ongoing Waltham Group programming, training and activities that are not funded by the Student Union. To donate, [click here](#).

**Submit your Story** - The Waltham Group would like to highlight 50 years of memories, relationships, and accomplishments. Think back on your time as a volunteer and recall some of your most treasured moments of connection with Waltham community members or fellow Brandeis students, or the ways that Waltham Group has played a role in your life since graduation. A select few stories will be highlighted further online, through Brandeis Now, newsletters, and the University’s social media outlets, reminding your fellow alumni of the many ways in which service shaped their Brandeis experience. Submit your stories here! Please submit your stories by no later than July 20th.

**50th Anniversary Committee**

**Silent auction chairs**
Nate Rosenblum ’10
Lara Solinsky ’11

**Volunteer site chairs**
Boston, Kelly Whiffen
Chicago, Sarah Johnson ’13
New York, Reed Zukerman ’13 and Hilary Heyison ’13
Washington, D.C., Rachel Weissman ’15 and Linda Nakagawa ’15

**Marketing and outreach liaisons**
Rebecca Bachman ’13
Natalie Cazeau ’10
Mary Casady ’08
Caryn Finley ’97
Judith Powsner ’77
Lenna Scott ’92
Alexandra Shapiro ’13
Robin Sherman ’83

**Student representatives**
Mitchell Beers ’17
Heather Gitler ’17
Krishna Narayanan ’17

**Silent Auction Alumni Committee**
Shaina Dorow ’16
Chuck ’86 and Leslie Gordon ’86
Suzannah Scanlon ’14
The Waltham Group Speakers Series that launched last semester continued in the spring with a strong lineup of speakers. The Waltham Group opened its meetings to even more people; coordinators, volunteers and all Brandeis community members were invited. In the spring, there were four sessions, each with its own theme.

Felix Tunador, the program coordinator for the Gender and Sexuality Center at Brandeis, led a discussion on personal identity and how it affects working with different populations, as well as coordinating a volunteer program.

At our second speaker series meeting, coordinators had the chance to network with alumni, staff and students from the Heller School, program directors and some local professionals about post-graduate service opportunities.

The third session focused on social entrepreneurship, a field that has recently received a lot of attention. Social entrepreneurship bridges the gap from non-profit to corporate and allows participants to do well by doing good. We convened a panel, moderated by the co-presidents, which featured local social entrepreneurs discussing their experiences. Participants included Emily Weiner, associate director of the Lewis Institute for Social Innovation at Babson; Elizabeth Buckley, Heller MBA/MA ’09, COO of Lallitara; and Artur Sousa, a site manager for MassChallenge.

JoAnne Sylvia Drake, the Northeast regional recruitment manager for City Year, spoke about education accessibility at the fourth event. She presented along with Brandeis City Year alumni.

**Alumni Spotlight**

**Nate Rosenblum ’10**

**Q:** What were you involved with on campus as an undergrad?

**A:** I was a politics major and business minor. I was involved with the Waltham Group, served as an Admissions tour guide (and later went on to be the head tour guide), belonged to the crew team, was an Orientation Leader, and participated in Peers Educating about Responsible Choices. I was involved with the Blood Drive team for Waltham Group and was on the budget and steering committee during my last year.

**Q:** How has the Waltham Group impacted you?

**A:** Waltham Group made a huge impact on me! Because of mentorship from Lucas Malo and many other members of the Office of Student Life and Success at Brandeis, I decided to pursue a master’s degree in higher education administration. Additionally, I believe a big part of my commitment to service and giving back is a result of my experience with the Waltham Group.
Q: What advice would you give to other students or alumni?
A: Find ways to give back. Our world is in need of a lot of repair and kindness, and we all have the potential to make an impact.

Q: What is your definition of community service/volunteerism?
A: Providing service to benefit others without receiving payment, praise or thanks.

Community Engagement Learning Practicum

This year, Lucas Malo, director of community service, and Brian Quigley, community service specialist, co-taught a seminar on community engagement. The course focused on many aspects of service, as well as tools to work with the community. The two-credit practicum supplemented the Waltham Group programs that coordinators led. Topics ranged from advocacy to reflection to risk management. Guest speakers included representatives from local non-profits with which Brandeis often works, staff members from campus and Brandeis administrators. As a final project, each student was tasked with creating a symposium presentation on one of the lessons they learned in the course. Topics discussed included foundational theory, grant writing philanthropy, and community assets mapping. Practicum presentations included:

- A Plan to Raise $50,000 by the 50th Anniversary, Emily Conrad ’17
- An Evaluation of Leadership Development in the Waltham Group, Shaina Dorow ’16
- An Assessment of the Case Management Program for Hunger and Homelessness, Lily Elderkin ’18
- A Comprehensive Marketing Strategy for the Waltham Group, Heather Gitler ’17
- A Community Asset Map of Waltham, Emilie Kahn-Boesel ’18
- A Grant Proposal for Afternoon Enrichment, David Kapaon ’16
- Advocacy Plan for Habitat for Humanity, Sofia Lavrentyeva ’17
- A Manual for Managing the Hunger and Homelessness Drives, Mira McMahon ’18

Celebration of Service
On May 2, the Waltham Group wrapped up another year of service with the annual Celebration of Service event. Several hundred students, staff, faculty and community partners gathered to celebrate the reciprocal impact that service work in the community has on Brandeis and the Greater Waltham community. Guests heard speeches from Interim President Lisa M. Lynch, students, staff and a community partner. Attendees enjoyed food and a photo booth. The event was a powerful way to conclude the school year in celebration of community impact.

**Commitment to Service medals** – Recipients were honored at a special ceremony during Celebration of Service. Students who logged 900, 600 or 300 hours of community service during their time at Brandeis received a gold, silver or bronze medal. The 2016 medal winners: Gold, Ian Batson, Beth He, Liset Hernández, David Kapaon, Shimon Mazor, Maria Pachon, Betty Varghese and Eddy Zheng. Silver: Stephanie Anciro, Sheetal Balasubramanian, Alana Birnhak, Sophie Brickman, Maryanne Cai, Kaiwen Chen, Olivia Devillers, Shaina Dorow, Tali Fleitman Soffer, Lekha Grandhi, Emily Greenwald, Ethan Harris, Daniel Kats, Tiffany Mei, Eden Shoshan, Elena Stoei-D’Arrigo and Bezaye Teshome. Bronze: Maichelly Baez, Yaznil Baez, Bethlehem Belaineh, Kristen Chalk, Ama Darkwa, Camille Deytiquez, Tyler Diamond, Melanie Gomes, Helen Gong, Allie Goodman, Adele Hanau, Zari Havercome, Emily Horowitz, Cynthia Jackson, Ashley Ki, Andrew Kouides, Eric Lin, Ashley Lorinsky, Sabrina Lynch, Wynne-Marie Martinez, Hannah Mogavero, Max Parish, Tifara Ramelson, Megan Rubenstein, Shayna Rubenstein, Coco Victoria Tirambulo, Zoe Waldman and Rose Wallace.

**Refreshed Leadership Structure**

In keeping with its dedication to providing coordinators with a fulfilling leadership experience, the Waltham Group is starting to empower more and more student leaders through committee work. With the development of the committee structure, more coordinators get the opportunity to plan programming, training and developmental experiences for members of the Waltham Group.

The Waltham Group’s Event Planning Committee (EPiC) organized many different events this year, each of which was designed to draw the community together. EPiC planned kickball games, trivia nights, bowling trips and many more activities. Additionally, the Reflection Committee was formed to provide continuous reflection opportunities for both coordinators and volunteers, allowing them to fully process and learn from their community-engagement experiences. Other committees will be formed next year focused on risk management, professionalism and training structure. These committees are expected to lead to more coordinator involvement and empower student leaders to create a more dedicated community.

**Educational Outreach and Advocacy on the Rise**
This year, the Waltham Group significantly increased its on-campus presence by sponsoring several educational outreach events. Each Waltham Group program hosted an event or awareness campaign designed to educate Brandeis students about the social issues that their programs address. This was an excellent opportunity for students who have not volunteered with the Waltham Group to learn about how they can get involved in social justice initiatives.

Big Siblings sponsored an awareness campaign on the effects of mentoring students. The poster hung in Usdan and featured information about how mentoring relationships can help a child’s growth. Habitat for Humanity hosted an event, “Habitat for Birdmanity,” in which participants designed birdhouses to display around campus while discussing housing insecurity. Symbiosis organized a screening of “This Changes Everything,” a movie based on Naomi Klein’s novel about the relationship between the environment and capitalism. These programs and many others led to several valuable discussions on campus and provided new opportunities for Brandeis students to connect with each other.

**Waltham Group Program Spotlights**

**Language Empowerment Action Project (LEAP)** – Recognizing the power of language and its ability to change people’s lives, LEAP is a Waltham Group community service program focused on developing English language skills. LEAP provides opportunities to tutor non-English speaking adults in the Waltham community, either one-on-one or in group settings. In addition to English classes, tutors give learners the opportunity to experience American culture. This program is open to all students and no language requirement is necessary to volunteer. LEAP partners with English At Large, Latina Moms and the Prospect Hill Community Center to provide services.

**Blood Drive** – The program works with the American Red Cross to host three blood drives on campus each year. There is always a need for blood, which is why volunteers work tirelessly to increase awareness and recruit donors. In the past year alone, donors gave a total of 361 pints of blood, which can be used to save up to 1,083 lives! Participants also worked with Gift of Life to accept bone marrow registry sign-ups in order to provide more matches to patients who need transplants. In April, Blood Drive held its third annual Boston Strong Memorial Blood Drive, which was created in memory of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing. Not only did donors give a total of 121 pints of blood, but Blood Drive also raised more than $350 for the Martin Richard Foundation, which invests money in education, athletics and community. The annual drive serves as a reminder that even without tragedy, the need for blood is constant and that everyone can do their part to help save lives.

**Brandeis Social Impact Fair**
Do you live locally and want to volunteer? Join more than 50 social impact employer and community partners at the Social Impact Job, Internship and Volunteer Fair from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Oct. 20. The event is open to all faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Do you have an organization that needs volunteers or interns or has paid positions? If so, we’re happy to assist you by offering you a table to recruit at the fair. The fair is sponsored by the Department of Community Service, Hiatt Career Center and Waltham Group Community Connections.

Please contact Lucas Malo with questions or to express interest.

Contact Us
For more information on the Waltham Group or this newsletter, please contact:

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