

BRANDEIS NATIONAL COMMITTEE
GREATER WASHINGTON
CHAPTER

A decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping, wavy blue lines that curve from the left side towards the right, positioned above the main title.

Study Guide

Part 2

January-March
2026

A decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping, wavy blue lines that curve from the left side towards the right, positioned below the main title.

Mission Statement

Brandeis National Committee (BNC) provides philanthropic support to Brandeis University, a distinguished liberal arts and research university founded by the American Jewish community. BNC's membership is connected to the university through fundraising and through activities that reflect the values on which the university was founded: academic excellence, social justice, nonsectarianism, and service to the community.

OUR HISTORY

Founded in 1948, Brandeis University is the first Jewish-sponsored, nonsectarian university in the United States. Brandeis reached the pinnacle of American higher education by earning Phi Beta Kappa recognition in 13 years, the youngest university to be honored in this manner since the 18th century. The life of the mind is central to this institution. As a small, vigorous research university, Brandeis combines the education and teaching normally found at small selective colleges with superb facilities and renowned faculty usually found only at the largest research universities.

As one of the youngest and smallest research universities, Brandeis University has a remarkable record of accomplishment. The Rosenstiel Basic Medical Sciences Research Center's interdisciplinary approach to combating diseases has greatly expanded the scope of leukemia research, pinpointed an on/off switch in diphtheria and improved the effectiveness of mammography machines. Research in the Volen Center's Memory and Cognition Lab focuses on how memory and mental processes change across the adult lifespan. The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute develops fresh ways of thinking about Jews and gender worldwide by producing and promoting scholarly research, artistic projects, and public engagement.

Our strong leadership and membership enable us to be a highly successful chapter of the Brandeis National Committee. Currently, our fundraising efforts will go to Engineering education. BNC's new multi-year campaign will raise money for the Brandeis National Committee Professorship in Engineering, supporting a new engineering program that will immerse students in engineering culture and provide them with the essential skills to become engineers and design solutions to complex problems. With your support, Brandeis envisions a future where its engineering program continues to cultivate conscientious and skilled engineers who will tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

INDEX

Book Groups

Brunch Book Club #5
Men's Book Club #6
Edible Book Club # 7
Mystery Book Club #9
The OverBOOKED Book Club #13

Crafts

Knit and Stitch #2
Creating a Flower Arrangement
for Your Passover Table #31

Games

Learn to Play Mah Jongg #23

Let's Get Together

Cuisine and Conversation #26

Cooking

Passover Workshop #30

Speakers

Be Aware of the Scam! John McCarthy #22
Love Your Bones: A Discussion of
Osteoporosis and Posture #25
"13 Drivers' Licenses" #27
From Silver Spring to the Silver Screen:
Movies Made in Montgomery County #28
Matriarch of Pizza #32

Tours

Amy Sherald: American Sublime Exhibit at
the Baltimore Museum of Art #24
National Building Museum Tour #29
National Park Seminary Tour #33

Discussion Groups

Play Discussion #1
Lunch and Movies Group 2 #15

☞ **Personal Record p. 18**

☞ **Registration Questions p. 19**

☞ **Officers, Directors p. 20**

☞ **Committee Chairs p.21**

22. John McCarthy: Be Aware of the Scam!

Our senior population is vulnerable to “Art of the Scam.” Individuals have literally lost their entire fortunes that took a lifetime to build to these very skilled scam artists pretending to be federal agents, cold calling them insisting their bank accounts are compromised. One of the latest scams plaguing Montgomery County is the Gold Bar scandal. Join us as John McCarthy, State’s Attorney for Montgomery County, provides us with information on how to protect yourself against catastrophic financial loss.

Date: Monday, January 12, 2026
Time: 10:30
Cost: \$20
Location: Congregation Har Shalom
11510 Falls Road, Potomac
Enrollment: Minimum 15, Maximum 28
Coordinators:



23. Learn to Play Mah Jongg

It’s the hottest game in town!! Learn how to use your skill, strategy, and luck to play this 19th century Chinese game. After three sessions you will be on your way to form your own group.



Date: Tuesdays, January 13, 20, 27
Time: 10:30
Cost: \$18
Location:

Enrollment: Minimum 4, Maximum 8
Coordinator:

24. Amy Sherald: American Sublime Exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art

Amy Sherald, *American Sublime* traces the artistic evolution of Amy Sherald, a defining voice of her generation who transformed American Portraiture. Known for documenting contemporary African American experience in the U.S., she painted the portrait of Michelle Obama that hung in the National Portrait Gallery. Sherald chose to show her exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art to avoid controversy over her art in Washington D.C. Prior to the tour, join us for lunch at Gertrude's Restaurant in the museum.

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026
Time: 11:30 lunch / 1:00 tour
Cost: \$22 (cost of lunch is additional)
Location: The Baltimore Museum of Art
10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore
Enrollment: Minimum 15, Maximum 30
Coordinators:



25. Love Your Bones: A Discussion of Osteoporosis and Posture



Osteoporosis is a word that is too familiar to our generation. It is a condition that weakens bones and can significantly impact posture. As bones become more fragile, they are more susceptible to fractures particularly in the spine. These fractures can lead to changes in posture. Join us as we learn how to support our body and promote good health and good posture.

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026
Time: 1:30
Cost: \$18
Location:
Enrollment: Minimum 8, Maximum 16
Coordinators:

26. Cuisine and Conversation

Let's shake off the winter doldrums with an afternoon of great food and even better company! Join us for a potluck lunch filled with delicious dishes and hearty laughter. Come ready to relax, reconnect, and enjoy. Good friends. Good food. Good conversation. It doesn't get any better than that!!



Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Time: 11:30
Cost: \$18
Location:
Enrollment: Minimum 15, Maximum 25
Coordinators:

27. "13 Drivers' Licenses"

In 2017, 13 Jewish drivers' licenses were discovered in the basement of a local government office in Lichtenfels, Germany, while the town was digitizing archived records. In 1938, Nazis had confiscated the licenses from Jewish residents after the November 9-10 Pogroms, also called Kristallnacht. Eighty years later, following this discovery, the Lichtenfels District Administrator approached a history teacher, who created a research project for his students to learn about the impact of the Holocaust in Lichtenfels. The students investigated the fates of the driver's license holders and ultimately identified descendants. Our speaker recounts her familial journey from the United States to Lichtenfels in November 2018 to reclaim her grandfather's license and a lost chapter of her family history. She explains how a Bavarian town comes to terms with its darkest past. It also is a story about human connection, "doing the right thing," and ultimately the interplay of remembrance, reconciliation, and hope.

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026
Time: 10:30
Cost: \$20
Location: Congregation Har Shalom
11510 Falls Road, Potomac
Enrollment: Minimum 20, Maximum 28
Coordinators:



28. From Silver Spring to the Silver Screen: Movies Made in Montgomery County

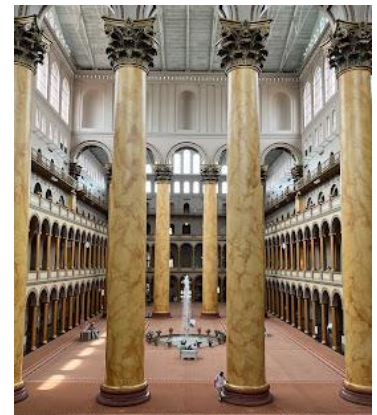
A surprising number of Hollywood movies have been filmed (at least partially) here in Montgomery County, stretching back over decades. Some of the sets are in known venues, while others are in various recognizable local sites. This richly illustrated talk by Montgomery County's own Ralph Buglass will also spotlight a surprising number of big-name stars who call Silver Spring their home.

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Time: 10:30
Cost: \$20
Location: Congregation Har Shalom
11510 Falls Road, Potomac
Enrollment: Minimum 15, Maximum 28
Coordinators:



29. National Building Museum Tour

The National Building Museum inspires curiosity about the world we design and build. The Museum resides in the historic Pension Building which contains one of the most awe inspiring spaces in the nation's capital. The docent tour shows off the Museum's massive historic space, highlighting its architectural features, construction history, and the journey of how it became home to the Museum. Tours include historic photographs and access to extra areas of the building not available to the public. Participants will be able to view the special exhibits of the development of the Rosenwald Schools and the construction of the Tuskegee Chapel.



Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026
Time: 10:30
Cost: \$20
Location: National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, Washington, DC
Enrollment: Minimum 15, Maximum 25
Coordinators:

30. Passover Workshop

Get your aprons ready as we join the avid baker for an afternoon of baking for the upcoming holiday. will choose several Passover desserts which we will create in his beautifully appointed kitchen. He will guide us step-by-step as we bake our delicious treats to be shared by everyone. All supplies are included.

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026
Time: 1:30
Cost: \$20
Location:

Enrollment: Minimum 7, Maximum 12
Coordinators:



31. Creating A Flower Arrangement for Your Passover Table

Let your creativity flow as you design your own silk flower arrangement for your Passover/Spring table. Bring a bowl or basket (6 to 8 inches) and any personal items you would like to incorporate into the arrangement. Flowers, fillers, and extra leaves will be provided.

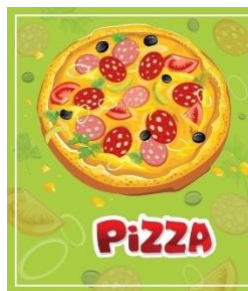


Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026
Time: 1:30
Cost: \$22
Location: Congregation Har Shalom
11510 Falls Road, Potomac
Enrollment: Minimum 10, Maximum 20
Coordinators:



32. Matriarch of Pizza

Ruth Gresser, founder of Pizza Paradiso, is a lifelong chef and mentor. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Madeleine Kamman's French Cooking School and went on to own and operate four critically acclaimed restaurants, including Washington, D.C.'s first Neapolitan pizzeria. A James Beard Awards Outstanding Restaurant semi-finalist in 2019 and 2020, Ruth was also recognized by the *Washington Business Journal* in its 2017 Women Who Mean Business list for her dedication to supporting women in the restaurant industry. Join us as we explore the challenges Ruth faced on her journey as a woman chef in a predominantly male profession, and how she built a legacy of mentorship and excellence.



Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Time: 10:30
Cost: \$20
Location: Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Road, Rockville
Enrollment: Minimum 20, Maximum 28
Coordinators:

33. National Park Seminary Tour

Originally a finishing school for girls from 1894 to 1942, the architecture of the campus remains eclectic and whimsical. The sorority houses reflected Victorian architecture: a Dutch windmill, a Swiss chalet, an Italian villa, and an English castle that is still on campus today. Many of these buildings were converted into private homes, and the classrooms were sold as condos. The campus features walkways filled with sculptures to connect the school's buildings. As this property has been renovated, we are able to have a guided tour as we learn the in-depth history of this unique venue. This is an outdoor walking tour.

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026
Time: 10:30
Cost: \$20
Location: 9615 DeWitt Drive, Silver Spring
Enrollment: Minimum 15, Maximum 25
Coordinators:





GAME DAY
Wednesday, January 28, 2026

LUNCH AND LEARN
Thursday, March 19, 2026

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE
CONTINUING PROGRAMS**

1. Play Discussion

Curtain up! Light the lights! The play's the thing! Don't miss out on reading and discussing in person a variety of plays. Some are old and some are new. Certain plays may need to be purchased.

	Fridays
Dates:	January 2, 2026, February 6, March 6, April 10, May 1, June 5
Time:	10:00 – 12:00
Cost:	\$25
Location:	In person, TBD
Enrollment:	Minimum 10, Maximum 20
Coordinators:	



2. Knit and Stitch

Share your stitching projects and maybe learn some new skills while we chat and get to know each other. Knit, crochet, cross-stitch, needlepoint, beading, whatever! Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Your participation is welcome in any or as many groups as you wish to attend. House location will rotate.

Cost: \$20 per group

Group 2 A: Second Monday of the Month

Dates: January 12, 2026, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8

Time: 1:30 – 3:30

Enrollment: Maximum 20

Coordinators:

Group 2 C: Fourth Monday of the Month

Dates: January 26, 2026, February 23, March 23, April 27, June 22

Time: 1:30 – 3:30

Enrollment: Maximum, 25

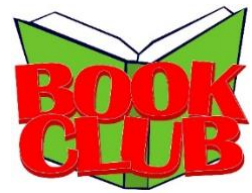
Coordinators:



5. Brunch Book Club

This book club focuses on books of interest selected by members of the group. Leaders will rotate. The group will meet every other month. You will be notified about the first book in January.

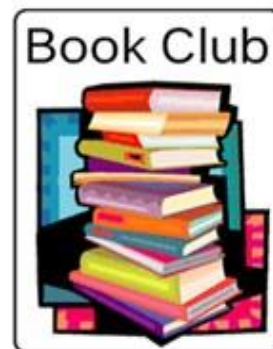
Dates: Wednesdays
January 21, 2026, March 18, May 20
Time: 11:00 - 12:30
Cost: \$18 (cost of brunch is additional)
Location: TBD
Enrollment: Minimum 6, Maximum 16
Coordinators:



6. Men's Book Club

This group, for men only, will discuss a monthly selection of either fiction or nonfiction, selected by participants. You will be notified by email of the title of the first book.

Dates: Wednesdays
January 21, 2026, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17
Time: 3:00–5:00
Cost: \$25
Location: Online via Zoom
Enrollment Minimum 8, Maximum 20
Coordinator:



7. Edible Book Club

This book club will participate in stimulating discussions about books chosen by the group, while we have lunch in a restaurant that complements the culture or situation in the book.

Dates: Fridays, every other month
January 16, 2026, March 27, May 15
Time: 12:00 – 2:00
Cost: \$18 (cost of lunch is additional)
Location: TBD
Enrollment: Minimum 8, Maximum 18
Coordinator:



9. Mystery Book Club

The Mystery Book Club reads books and short stories chosen by group members. We meet on Zoom or at a member's home and rotate discussion leaders. Our meetings are scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month.

Dates: Mondays
January 26, 2026, February 23, March 30, April 27, May 18
Time: 10:00 – 12:00
Cost: \$25
Location: Zoom or a member's home
Enrollment: Minimum 10, Maximum 14
Coordinators:



13. The OverBOOKed Book Club

For busy people who like to read, there will be a bimonthly get-together to discuss fiction and nonfiction books that we've read and to enjoy each other's company. No reading assignments! Just share your readings and listen to others.

Dates: Thursdays
February 19, 2026, April 16, June 18
Time: 1:00
Cost: \$18
Location: The Carnegie at Washingtonian Center
10100 Washingtonian Boulevard, Gaithersburg
Enrollment: Minimum 8, Maximum 14
Coordinators:



15. Lunch and Movies Group 2 (New Group)

The original Lunch and Movies group reached its maximum number of participants. We have created a second group to accommodate members who are not in the original group and would like to join this group. The idea is to see a movie and discuss it. Group members will select the movie of the month prior to each meeting. The coordinator will advise the registrants of the first movie. This group meets for lunch prior to the movie discussion.

Dates: Wednesdays
February 25, 2026, April 22, June 24
Time: 12:30 – 2:30
Cost: \$18 (cost of lunch is additional)
Location: TBD
Enrollment: Minimum 8, Maximum 16
Coordinator:





12:30

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Villa Maya

5532 Norbeck Road, Rockville

Authentic Mexican cuisine in a welcoming and colorful setting.

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Gourmet Asian Bistro

7224 Muncaster Mill Rd, Derwood

A casual dining Asian restaurant offering a wide array of authentic Chinese, Japanese and Thai food.

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Salt and Vine

3308 Olney Sandy Spring Rd, Olney

This cozy Italian nook serves seasonal small & large plates, brick-oven pizzas, savory sandwiches, fresh salads and more.

PERSONAL RECORD

EVENT #	DATE/TIME	TITLE	CHARGE	✓
22	Mon, Jan 12, 10:30	John McCarthy: Be Aware of the Scam!	\$20	
23	Tues, Jan 13, 20, 27 10:30	Learn to Play Mah Jongg	\$18	
24	Thurs, Jan 22, 11:30	Amy Sherald: American Sublime Exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art	\$22	
25	Thurs, Feb 5, 1:30	Love Your Bones: A Discussion of Osteoporosis and Posture	\$18	
26	Tues, Feb 10, 11:30	Cuisine and Conversation	\$18	
27	Fri, Feb 13, 10:30	"13 Drivers' Licenses"	\$20	
28	Tuesday, Feb 24, 10:30	From Silver Spring to the Silver Screen: Movies Made in Montgomery County	\$20	
29	Thurs, Mar 5, 10:30	National Building Museum Tour	\$20	
30	Tues, Mar 10, 1:30	Passover Workshop	\$20	
31	Thurs, Mar 12, 1:30	Creating a Flower Arrangement for Your Passover Table	\$22	
32	Wed, Mar 25, 10:30	Matriarch of Pizza	\$20	
33	Tues, Mar 31, 10:30	National Park Seminary Tour	\$20	
1	Fri, Jan 2, 10:00	Play Discussion	\$25	
2A	Mon, Jan 12, 1:30	Knit and Stitch	\$20	
2C	Mon, Jan 26, 1:30	Knit and Stitch	\$20	
5	Wed, Jan 21, 11:00	Brunch Book Club	\$18	
6	Wed, Jan 21, 3:00	Men's Book Club	\$25	
7	Fri, Jan 16, 12:00	Edible Book Club	\$18	
9	Mon, Jan 26, 10:00	Mystery Book Club	\$25	
13	Thurs, Feb 19, 1:00	The OverBOOKed Book Club	\$18	
15	Wed, Feb 25, 12:30	Lunch and Movies Group 2	\$18	

Frequently Asked Study Guide Questions



- **When does Study Guide registration begin?**

Registration for January through March (Part 2) begins **today** for paid-up current members, on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **Coordinators and participants must register for Study Groups. You will receive an email with your registration list. If the class is full, you will be placed on a waitlist. If an opening occurs, you will be notified by email and have 24 hours to respond.**
- **Will I get my money back if I can no longer attend a Study Guide event?** No
No refunds are given unless the session is cancelled.
- **May I ask my friend to take my place?** No
- **Do I need to register if I am hosting at my home?** No
- **Do I need to register if I am speaking or leading a study group?** No
- **What if the weather is bad?**
Our chapter reflects weather policies of Montgomery County Schools. If schools are closed due to inclement weather, chapter activities are canceled. Programs with speakers and/or on Zoom will continue as planned on Zoom, if possible. If schools have a delayed opening, our events will be held as scheduled.
- **What happens if BNC cancels a study group?**
If the chapter cancels a study group, you can donate your fee to BNC or request a refund.
- **When will I hear from the coordinator for my Study Group?**
Two to three weeks before the event, the coordinators will contact you by email to inform you of any specific directions. If you have not heard from a coordinator within 3 days of the event, contact the coordinator or the registrar.

For additional questions contact Study Guide Vice-Presidents