



BNC

San Dieguito Chapter

Study & Social Groups

2024-2025



Brandeis Study & Social Groups 2024–2025

1. AMERICAN JUDAISM—ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA & OTHER ISSUES (NEW!)

1st Tuesday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will start meeting in September.

This course will examine critically important topics focusing on American Judaism, such as Jews of color, antisemitism in America, and the apparent decline of Jewish influence in America. We will examine how African Americans became Jews in America and their response to the antisemitism prevalent in the United States. We will explore if today's antisemitism is unique to this time and if it is part of a larger problem in American society involving other ethno-racial groups. Finally, we will explore whether there is a connection between antisemitism and the asserted weakening of American Jewish influence. Course material will include excerpts from texts on American Judaism and other written publications and videos from YouTube and jewishunpacked.com. It is possible that guest speakers may contribute to the discussion of the topics listed above. **Coordinator: Mitch Weiss**

2. ART DISCOVERY

4th Friday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Art museums throughout San Diego County Group will meet year-

round starting in October.

Let's Explore! With over 90 museums, big and small, in the greater San Diego area and covering a myriad of artistic tastes and fields, there is no shortage of places to explore. Come join us on a monthly journey to new avenues of art and cultural locations. Option to have lunch after the museum visit for those interested. **Coordinators: Diana**

Finkelstein & Kathy Salm

3. BIOPIC FILMS & BEYOND DISCUSSION

1st Monday

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will meet year-round starting in October.

'Biopic' is a term derived from the combination of the words "biography" and "pictures." These films depict and dramatize the life of a non-fictional or historically based person or people from the past or present era. Biopics cross many genre types, since these films might showcase a criminal; a musical composer; a western outlaw; a religious figure or leader of a movement; a war-time military hero; an entertainer; an artist; an inventor, scientist, or doctor; a politician or President; a sports hero or celebrity; or an adventurer. Each month we will select a biopic film or historical drama from members' suggestions, watch it on our own, and meet via Zoom for an informative and lively discussion. **Coordinator: Iris**

Kanter

4. BRIDGE FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS (NEW!)

2nd Thursday

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Location to be determined among participants

4th Week

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location and evening to be determined among participants

Group will start meeting in October.

Interested in exercising your brain while having fun doing so? This group is for those who have a basic knowledge of playing bridge. We will play three rounds of bridge, so each player can play with the others. If you enjoy mental stimulation in a relaxed social environment with like-minded individuals, this group is for you. **Coordinator: Linda**

Levine

5. CANASTA

1st & 3rd Thursdays

12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Location to be determined among participants

Group will start meeting in October.

If you know how to play Canasta and want to make new friends, come join this group! There are many different versions of Canasta, and the group will decide on table rules before playing. Although this game is played with four people consisting of two partnerships, you do not have to bring your own partner. The location of play will be determined among the participants. **Coordinator: Margie Mopper**

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6. CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

2nd Monday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will meet year-round starting in September.

Contemporary Literature participants are serious readers who regard their literary choices as a challenge. Often the books are by prize-winning authors and are sometimes on difficult subjects, but we find those often make for the best discussions. This study group meets all year. A book selection committee chooses books for the entire year in August. All group members can volunteer to serve on this committee. Members take turns serving as facilitators. **Coordinator: Elaine Eisenberg**

7. ENGINEERING WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD (NEW!)

2nd Wednesday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will start meeting in October.

Famed for great thinkers, poets, artists, and leaders, ancient Greece and Rome were also home to some of the most creative engineers who ever lived. Many of their feats have survived; others have disappeared into the mists of time. Modern research is shedding new light on these renowned wonders—impressive buildings, infrastructure systems, and machines that were profoundly important in their own day and have had a lasting impact on the development of civilization. This study group will give you an in-depth appreciation for what the Greeks and Romans achieved and how they did it. **Coordinators: Iris Kanter & Martha Stillman**

8. FIELD TRIPPERS

2nd Friday

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Locations will vary throughout San Diego County

Group will meet year-round starting in October.

So many fun and fabulous things to do around the San Diego area, and we never seem to find the time. Come join this casual, social group and visit a new place to explore each month. Option to meet for lunch before the Field Tripper event. This group is meant to get you out, stretch your legs, meet new people, and see new things. **Coordinator: Iris Kanter**

9. FITNESS FRIDAY (NEW!)

1st Friday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Carlsbad and surrounding area

Group will meet year-round starting in November.

If you like fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie, come join this group. One month we may go hiking, another month we may play pickleball, another month we may do lap swimming, or we may go for a moderately paced neighborhood walk. Whatever we choose promises to get the heart rate up and burn a few calories. Please come prepared with water, sunscreen, hat, walking sticks if you use them, and your bathing suit and towel when we go swimming. Pickleball rackets will be available for those participants who do not have one. **Coordinator: Iris Kanter**

10. GREAT DECISIONS

3rd Wednesday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will start meeting in October.

Have you ever wished you really had an in-depth understanding of the major global political issues of the day? In addition to the incredible briefing book by the Foreign Policy Association, which is full of valuable information, the instructor will provide additional up-to-the-minute material. Participants may read as little or as much as they wish and still find the sessions very stimulating. Topics will include: U.S. & China Trade Rivalry, Global Trade & Green Energy, Understanding Indonesia, The Future of NATO & European Security, AI & American National Security, and After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East. This course includes a short presentation streamed online at each meeting which will act as the basis for lively discussions. **Coordinator: Stan Schatt**

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11 HISTORICAL FICTION

3rd Friday

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will meet year-round starting in October.

If you enjoy learning about history through novels, this group is for you. We'll be reading books in which a story is set in the past and borrows from history accurate details and characteristics of the time period but is about fictional or sometimes real characters and, in some cases, events. Group members will suggest books that will be voted on. Members take turns serving as facilitators. We have been fortunate to have authors join our Zoom discussion occasionally. **Coordinator: Cheryl Kaufman**

12. JEWISH COMEDIANS OF THE BORSCHT BELT & BEYOND (NEW!)

2nd Tuesday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will start meeting in October.

In an attempt to give us something to laugh about this year, let's learn about the wonderful comedians of the era when the Catskill Mountains hosted the vacations of Jewish families from metropolitan New York and the surrounding areas. We will learn about the history of the luxurious resorts and comedians who got their start on these stages. From a list of nearly 20 such entertainers from Jerry Lewis to Joan Rivers, we will be entertained by these hilarious comics that we all remember so well. There will be biographical information, short sketches to watch during class sessions, and some movie suggestions to watch on your own. Please join us for a pleasant distraction from the seriousness of our times. Who is up for some silly fun and laughter? **Coordinator: Mary Weiss**

13. JEWISH-THEMED FILMS DISCUSSION

4th Tuesday

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will start meeting in September.

There are so many outstanding films that examine Jewish history, heritage, and culture. Each month, the participants will view a film before we meet on Zoom to discuss the plot, characters, setting, and events. Films selected will include mainstream and independent films, documentaries, plus some surprises. Some films may be on Netflix, Amazon Prime, or YouTube depending on what the participants have available. **Coordinators: Mary & Mitch Weiss**

14. LET'S GET OUT & WALK

4th Wednesday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Locations will vary throughout San Diego County

Group will meet year-round starting in October.

There are so many great places for your paces around San Diego County! Come join this casual social group, stretch your legs, make new friends, and walk. If you like, stay for a casual lunch at a nearby restaurant after the walk.

Coordinator: Becky Thien

15. LUNCH BUNCH

4th Thursday

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Locations will vary throughout San Diego County

Group will meet year-round starting in October.

There are so many great places to eat around San Diego County! Come join this casual social group, make new friends, and enjoy what we like to do – eat! **Coordinator: Margie Mopper**

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16. MAH JONGG FOR BEGINNERS (AND FOR THOSE WHO WANT A REFRESHER)

Tuesdays

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Linda Epstein's home (Carlsbad)

Group will start meeting in October.

Learn to play Mah Jongg in just six sessions! Mah Jongg is a tile-based game that was developed in China and has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. It is commonly played by four players and is a game of skill, strategy, and calculation, and also involves a degree of chance. Once everyone is comfortable playing, participants can continue playing with each other. **Coordinator: Linda Epstein**

17 MAH JONGG IN PERSON FOR EXPERIENCED PLAYERS

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

1st Wednesday - Iris Kanter's home (Carlsbad)

3rd Wednesday – Carolyn Cohen's home (La Jolla)

Group will meet year-round starting in October.

If you know how to play Mah Jongg, come join this group and meet other members. This group is intended for intermediate and experienced players with knowledge of the National Mah Jongg League rules and a steady pace of play.

Coordinator: Iris Kanter

18. MAH JONGG ONLINE FOR EXPERIENCED PLAYERS

Mondays

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Online (computer or tablet with WiFi) & phone to chat while playing

Group will play online year-round starting in October.

This group will play online while being connected via phone or Zoom. Come join us and play in a friendly, stress-free atmosphere. Participants must have access to a computer or tablet with WiFi to play. **Coordinator: Iris Kanter**

19. MITZVAH MAVENS (NEW!)

3rd Tuesday

Anytime between 9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Pilgrim United Church, Carlsbad

Group will meet year-round starting in October.

Come volunteer at the Pilgrim United Church Food Pantry in Carlsbad anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Sandwiches are available for lunch to volunteers. For additional information, contact Sheryl Deutsch:

sdeutsch6480@aol.com or 810.287.8600. **Coordinator: Sheryl Deutsch**

20. MOVIES & MUNCHIES

3rd Wednesday

Mid to Late Afternoon (time depends on movie)

Regal Edwards San Marcos

Group will meet year-round starting in October.

We will be meeting once a month in the mid to late afternoons at the Edwards San Marcos Stadium to watch a movie together. Then, we will grab a bite to eat at a local restaurant where we will discuss the movie and enjoy each other's company. Everyone will be responsible for the ticket cost of the movie and the cost of their food and drink.

This social group is perfect for new and existing members who are interested in making new friends. **Coordinators:**

Kathy Salm & Diana Finkelstein

21. NEWS JUNKIES (NEW!)

3rd Monday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

Group will start meeting in October.

Join our lively, member-led conversation as we explore today's current events. Members will take turns serving as the monthly leader. Topics will be chosen by the month's leader and can focus on any combination of local, state, and/or national levels, as may be most appropriate that month. Active participation is the key to great discussions, and we hope that all members attending will actively contribute to the conversation. **Coordinators: Iris Kanter & Martha Stillman**

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22. SUNDAY, FUNDAY (NEW!)

Sunday (every other month) afternoon/early evening Locations will vary throughout San Diego County

Group will meet year round starting in October.

We will be meeting every other month throughout the year on a Sunday afternoon/early evening to enjoy a variety of fun activities together, such as going out to an early dinner, playing a game such as Mexican Train, visiting a museum, going to a movie or play, or renting a movie at someone's home. Possibilities to share fun adventures together are endless.

Participants will take turns planning a Sunday event. If you are looking to meet other active people and make new friends, this is a perfect social group for you. Exact dates will be determined by the participant planning the outing.

Coordinator: Lynn Goldberg

23 TAXES 101 (NEW!)

2nd Thursday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Via Zoom

Group will start meeting in December.

This class will meet December, January, and February and will be facilitated by Benny Alfano, an Enrolled Agent with the IRS. The first session will focus on IRS's Annual List of Scams and Schemes that affect taxpayers. We will learn how to spot these scams and schemes, how to avoid them, and where to report them. We will also learn about estimated tax payments and why you should strongly consider using them. The second session will focus on Estates, Trusts, Retirement Plans, Pensions, & Annuities. We will discuss what estates and trusts are and how they affect your and your beneficiaries' taxes. We will learn how Generation Skipping and transfer of taxes affect you and your family. In addition, we will learn about the different retirement plans, pensions, and annuities and how they can be beneficial to your tax planning and what happens to them upon your death. The last session will focus on the Federal Tax Changes and Updates for 2024 Income Taxes. We will learn about the new legislation, rules, and regulations, and changes and adjustments to existing tax laws. **Coordinator: Benny Alfano**

24. WAR, WESTERN & SCI-FI FILMS DISCUSSION (NEW!)

3rd Tuesday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Via Zoom

Group will start meeting in September.

Each month we will select a war, western, or sci-fi related film, watch it on our own, and meet via Zoom for an informative and lively discussion. Participants of this study group will analyze and critique a historically significant and/or provocative film in terms of how successful the film was in crafting the main cinematic element, e.g., the plot, into an absorbing and entertaining audio-visual story. Films that we will be discussing include *The Best Years of Our Lives*, *Lonely are the Brave*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *The Cowboys*, *Blade Runner*, *Paths of Glory*, *Little Big Man*, and *2001: A Space Odyssey*. **Coordinator: Mitch Weiss**