

## BNC TREASURE COAST 2024-25 STUDY GROUP GUIDE

### BRANDEIS NATIONAL COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

Brandeis National Committee is dedicated to providing philanthropic support to Brandeis University, a distinguished liberal arts and research university founded by the American Jewish community. Its 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, non-sectarianism, and service to the community.

*“Every citizen must have education, broad and continuous. Education must continue throughout life.”*  
- Louis D. Brandeis

We hope you find this year’s offerings inspiring, fun and challenging. Join in as many groups as you can to enjoy learning new skills or information in a comfortable environment.



## Contemporary Fiction



We have selected three novels covering a wide range of writing styles, settings and characters. She is looking forward to some new faces and stimulating discussions.

**DATES:** WEDNESDAYS, 11/6, 1/8, 3/5, 2 PM

**BOOKS:**

November 6: *Erasure* by Percival Everett

January 8: *After Annie* by Anna Quindlen

March 5: *North Woods* by Daniel Mason

## Ethical Dilemmas



“Most people think of themselves as good, but it’s not always easy to determine what’s ‘good’ or ‘bad’, especially in a world filled with complicated choices and pitfalls and booby traps and bad advice.” - Michael Shur. As amateur philosophers, this year we will explore the ethical issues surrounding multi-level marketing “schemes” with the podcast *The Dream* as our guide.

**DATES:** FRIDAYS, 11/8, 1/17, 2/21, 11 AM on Zoom

## Flix, Mix, Sip and Dip!



Stream a movie at home, then gather together, enjoy wine and cheese, and engage in thoughtful reflection about the movie!

**DATES:** WEDNESDAYS, 11/20, 4/2, 4-6 PM

**TIME:** 4-6 PM

**MOVIES:** *The Imitation Game* (11/20) and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (4/2)

**NOTE:** This group is limited to 20 people.

## Gardening Made Easy



Gardening in the tropics can be easy AND fun! Faye has lined up Jensen Beach Garden Club experts to show us all how to have green thumbs!

**DATES:** MONDAYS, 10/21, 12/2, 1/27, 1 PM

**TIME:** 1 PM

**10/21: Growing Microgreens and Other Edibles.** Make and take your very own nutritional microgreen mini garden; learn about other easy-to-grow edibles that you can plant in a pot or your landscape. Lots of take-aways including recipes, nutritional facts, and cuttings to plant at home.

**12/2: Everyone Loves Orchids.** You just received a beautiful blooming orchid as a hostess gift. Now what? Before you kill that orchid, attend this workshop to learn about the different varieties of orchids and how to care for them. Get tips from this expert and watch your orchids flourish.

**1/27: Container Gardens – Dos and Dents.** Learn how to save money by creating your own magnificent container gardens. From succulents to annuals, this workshop will show you how to build your own successful container garden from plants readily available at your favorite nursery or by propagating your own.

## Kapell's Korner



Explore the best of Foreign Language Films with group leader David Kapell. Each film selected has been nominated or received the award for Best International Foreign Film by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. We will view the film together and follow with a lively discussion. Most films last about 2 hours.

**DATES: TUESDAYS, 3/11 and 3/25, 9 AM - Noon**

## Knitwits and Other Needles



Join knitters, crocheters, needlepointers, quilters and embroiderers of all levels to learn new skills, work on projects and enjoy needle arts together. Beginners welcome.

**DATES: THURSDAYS, 11/7, 1/16, 2/27, 10:30 AM**

## Let's Do Lunch



**Let's meet for lunch and explore our local Treasure Coast eateries!**

**DATES: FRIDAYS, 11/15, 1/31, 3/21 at Noon**

**PLACE: 11/15: Sailor's Return, 625 SW Anchorage Way, Stuart**

**1/31: Citron Bistro, 11750 SE Dixie Hwy, Hobe Sound**

**3/21: Dolphin Bar and Shrimp House, 1401 NE Indian River Dr, Jensen Beach**

## Locked Room Mysteries



A locked room mystery is a puzzle - not just any puzzle, but the ultimate puzzle. Because there's no logical way for the crime to have been committed - be it jewels that disappeared from a guarded safe or a person fatally stabbed with nobody close enough to have done so—it's not only a whodunnit, but also a howdunnit. The challenge for the detective (and the reader) is to solve how the crime was committed and identify the culprit despite the seemingly impossible circumstances.

**DATES: WEDNESDAYS, 12/18, 2/19, 4/16 at 2 PM**

**BOOKS:**

**12/18** *Under Lock and Skeleton Key*, by Gigi Pandian (2022)

**2/19** *Malice*, by Keigo Higashino (2014)

**4/16** *And Then There Were None*, by Agatha Christie (1939)

## Mindgames



We'll be playing mind games to sharpen our thinking and keep things fun. We'll dive into all kinds of material with puzzles, brainteasers, and quick mental challenges to keep it interesting. It's a great way to learn and have a good time.

**DATES: WEDNESDAYS, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11, 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14 at 11 AM on Zoom**

## Pictures and Conversation

"What is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversation?" In this group we will explore the delights of Ekphrastic poetry: poetry which is a conversation about a picture.



In our first meeting, we will explore four magnificent poems, and the paintings that inspired them: W. H. Auden's "Musee des Beaux Arts" and Brueghel's "Landscape With the Fall of Icarus; Tennyson's "Lady of Shalott" inspired by a John William Waterhouse painting; "The Starry Night" by Anne Sexton, inspired by the famous van Gogh painting; "The Great Figure" by William Carlos Williams and Charles Demuth's "Figure 5 in Gold." In our second meeting we will bring in the images that inspire *us*, and write about them. Our own passions are so varied, range so widely from the intimate and familiar to the larger, wilder world. Let's see where this adventure takes us!

**DATES: WEDNESDAYS, 1/15, 2/5 at 11 AM**

## Script Reading: From Our Lips To Your Ears



**Doesn't this sound like fun? Script Reading at 11 AM. Lunch of course will be whatever you bring. Then we sing the songs we all remember from the 50's and the 60's. And maybe, just maybe, with a little movement added, there may be a Lip-Syncing show in the future. Men are always welcome.**



**DATES: THURSDAYS, (SECOND Thursday of each month): 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, 12/12, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8**  
**TIME: 11 AM - 12:30 PM (Bring your lunch!)**

## Sweet and Savory



**Let's cook and bake our way through the iconic Silver Palate Cookbook(s). Choose a recipe within the theme and make your creation at home prior to each meeting. We will share experiences on a short Zoom call. At the final meeting, we will meet in person and taste our favorites!**

**DATES: FRIDAYS, 10/4, 12/13, 2/14, 3/7 at 11 AM on Zoom**  
**10/4: Starters: Appetizers, Soups, Salads, or other starters of your choice**  
**12/13: Mains, Veggies, Salads**  
**2/14: Sweets, Desserts, and Treats**  
**3/7: Chef's Selection: Pick the recipe of your choice and bring it to the tasting!**

## Technology Titans: Google and Glowforge



**Learn new computer skills or expand those you already have! These courses will focus on Google (1/23) and Glowforge (2/24).**

**DATES: SESSION 1: THURSDAY, 1/23 and SESSION 2: MONDAY, 2/24**  
**TIMES: 1/23: 10:30 - 12:00 AM, 2/24: 1:00 - 2:30 PM**  
**PLACE: The Blake Library, 2351 SE Monterey Rd, Stuart**

**SESSION 1, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23: Google Essentials** – Description: Learn to use the search engine Google, and its many extras such as images, news, maps, etc.

**SESSION 2: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24: Glowforge** - Description: Learn how to create and customize your own journal using the Glowforge Laser Engraver. (Glowforge is a laser cutter and engraving machine!) We'll show you the basic design tools on the Glowforge website and guide you through the process of using the equipment. Basic computer proficiency is required.



## Treasures of the Treasure Coast Revisited



**Attention Treasure Coast Enthusiasts! There are three outings planned for this year:**

**DATES: FRIDAYS, 12/6, 2/7, and WEDNESDAY, 4/2**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2 PM** - Sound Healing at the Elliott Museum: Come and experience Sound Healing with Deena Rahill. Studies have shown that Sound Healing is beneficial in calming your mind, reducing stress and relaxing the body. Tickets \$30-\$40 depending on number of attendees.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1 PM:** FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Boat Tour Fort Pierce: A fun and educational 1.5 hour boat ride with a marine scientist who will discuss wildlife encountered as well as research being conducted on the Indian River Lagoon. Tickets \$40

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 11 AM:** The Enchanted Garden Tour with Debbie Katz: *Eden in the Pines* is a certified wildlife sanctuary, five acres of beauty in West Palm Beach which combines the flora and fauna of old Florida with the whimsy of small themed gardens.

## Untaught History



**Join us to learn and discuss a wide variety of historical topics NOT taught in school. Be a part of this lively, thought-provoking, and informative study group!**

**DATES: THURSDAY, 12/5, TUESDAY, 1/28, MONDAY, 3/24 at 2 PM**

**TOPICS:**

**12/5: HISTORY OF CONTRACEPTIVES:** The evolution from antiquity to present contraceptive methods used throughout history. Learn of the most bizarre, daffy and downright dangerous methods created for birth control as far back as 1850 BCE! I can guarantee this subject was not taught to you in school or by your parents.

**LEADER:** Tammy Walkoff, [nuwithu@gmail.com](mailto:nuwithu@gmail.com), (772) 341-3988 (Cell), (772) 237-5562 (Home)

**1/28: HOW THE BRAIN LEARNS:** Until the late 20th Century, how learning actually occurs in the brain remained a mystery, and many false theories led mankind to implement teaching and learning practices antithetical to what the brain "prefers." Come to learn about your own designer brain, what yours has in common with other brains, and how your brain might learn best.

**LEADER:** Kaarin Averill, [karkae99@gmail.com](mailto:karkae99@gmail.com), (248) 563-7339

**3/24: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN...SO YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM?**

Franklin was a great man- scientist, publisher, political theorist, diplomat. But we can't understand him fully without considering why he treated his wife so shabbily at the end of her life. The answer isn't simple...

**LEADER:** Fran Cooper, [chimerefran@gmail.com](mailto:chimerefran@gmail.com), (772) 418-0752 (Cell), (772) 873-4679 (Home)

**NOTE: This group is limited to 30 people.**