

**Brandeis Beat**

**May, 2010**

## 2010 - Study Group News - 2011

As another successful study group year comes to a close, plans are already underway for the 2010 - 2011 season. Most of the study groups will be returning next year, but we are looking to expand our choices and activities. We want to hear your ideas, so please tell us what new groups you'd like to see. So far, some of the suggestions for new groups have been:



Beginner Mah Jongg, Intermediate Mah Jongg, Beginner Canasta, Intermediate Canasta – Wine Tasting (this would be an evening group)  
Ethnic Dining: choose a different ethnic restaurant every month (could be an evening group)

### Film Groups (3 formats):

See the films at the theatre together and discuss them afterward.  
See the films on your own once a month and meet to discuss.  
See movies available on DVD, either together or separately.

(Note: any of these could be evening groups, depending on participant choice.)



Contemporary Short Fiction: read and discuss short stories based on  
Scribner's Anthology of Contemporary Short Stories:  
50 North American Stories since 1970  
Books - #1 Bestsellers

Theatre and Opera, Sewing and Design, Beading,  
Art (with a docent or someone who is qualified to discuss Art History)  
Gardening, Antiques, Schticks & Cohens: The Jewish Contribution to Comedy



Please contact us and let us know if any of these groups interest you, or if you have additional ideas. We're looking forward to an exciting, intellectually challenging and fun year!

Merrill Kalman: mskbflo@aol.com (preferred) / 480-296-3355  
Sara Leopold: sara.leopold@live.com (preferred) / 480-248-6674

## Incoming President's Message



Dear Members,

This is my first column as your new president, and I wish to acknowledge all the people who made this possible for me, which includes all of you, since you so warmly welcomed me into your Brandeis home. Thank you Iris, our outgoing President, for your inspiration, mentoring and for bringing innovation to our chapter. No one person can do it without the wonderful leadership that is within our chapter. Phoenix Chapter is fortunate to have three national leaders among us: Carol Kern, outgoing National President; Sue Karp, Western Region President; and Joanie Small, National Membership Chair. I was fortunate to have a great programming committee this year and thank you all for making our events such a success. Thanks to Joanie Bream for your wise counsel. I'm excited by the talent and commitment of our new Board.

As a native New Yorker, I never left my birthplace, except to go from Brooklyn to various parts of the New York area including Roslyn Heights, Long Island and Manhattan. When a job opportunity brought Harvey and me to Scottsdale, I had some trepidation, as I literally knew no one. That was almost four years ago, and here I am as your president, and that says much about the openness of this chapter.

I now have a "triple Brandeis" connection with Harvey as a Brandeis grad and my stepdaughter Sarah, also as Brandeis grad. And with our chapter's help, there will be many Brandeis grads to come, as we are all "parents" of Brandeis grads through our activities in support of the university.

The vitality of our chapter revolves around our love for learning: our study groups and Book and Author event are testimony to that fact. It was with great sadness that the decision to close the bookstore was made. I would like to commend Joanie Small and all who put many selfless hours into trying to make it a success. However, the world is changing as we speak, and a down-economy has taken its toll on us all.

I believe that with every crisis there must be movement forward. Today books and newspapers are being read on computers, smart phones, Kindles and now iPads. We text and we tweet. I think of Iris traveling with her Kindle, and communicating with us by email via her Blackberry. So too must our chapter move forward. For those of you who don't know how to use a computer, get a Brandeis buddy to teach you. You will be amazed at the world it opens up for you. The vast resources of Brandeis University are just a click away. Join Facebook. I now have many Brandeis friends there, and I am a Facebook fan of BNC. I hope we can have our own chapter Facebook page soon. Let's open ourselves to new ideas to help this great chapter grow and help Brandeis University meet its financial goals. Give of your time, energy and friendship - you'll be glad that you did.

Sincerely,  
Gladys Simon, Incoming President, BNC Phoenix Chapter



### 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 fund raising and through activities that reflect the values on which the University was founded: academic excellence, social justice, nonsectarianism and service to the community.



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