



**KANSAS**

**40  
YEARS  
LATER**



## Susan Abramson

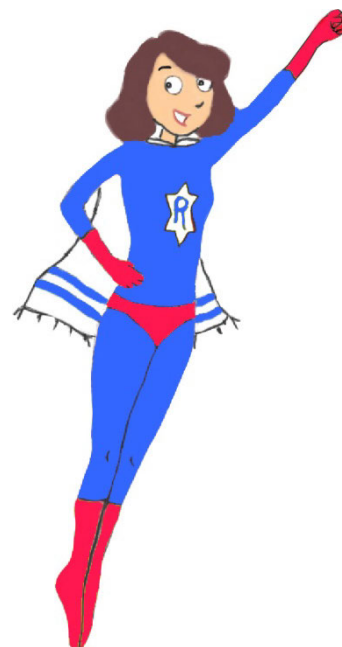
Hi Brandeis Friends,

Can't believe we are celebrating our 40th reunion!

My son is going into his senior year at Brandeis. It is such a great feeling to be a Brandeis parent, even though he still won't allow me the pleasure of buying him anything with a Brandeis logo.

As for me, finishing my 31st year as rabbi of Temple Shalom Emeth in Burlington, MA. Published five books, the Rabbi Rocketpower series and most recently, Challah: A Chewish Guide to the Torah. Had the honor of being part of the subject of the Globe Magazine cover story last August about how the Bedford community responded to acts of antisemitism. Over the past two years it has been fun to branch out from my little Jewish community and get to know superintendents, police chiefs, elected officials and interfaith clergy.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone at the reunion :)





## Jon Becker



Living overseas for over 28 years, including London, Geneva, Luzern, Paris, Rome and now Lugano, married to an Italian for 35 years. 18 year old son (pre-professional music school) and 23 year old daughter (pre-law program). Worked as in-house counsel for EDS (after acquired by GM), Amgen and InterMune (acquired by Roche). Now providing strategic legal advice focused on various international issues. Free-time hiking, cross-country skiing, sightseeing and active in Rotary Club.





**Stephen G Becker**  


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**Andrea Behrens**  


I recently retired after 27 years with the City of New York. I started in 1989 after having worked in consulting (Hay Associates and a smaller boutique firm ORC) and a brief stint at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

I am looking forward to enjoying all the things that New York City has to offer that I never had time to do while working. I also plan on traveling extensively.

## Herb Birnbaum

Life has been rich and fulfilling since Brandeis days. Practicing dentistry and raising a family - for the past 13 years without my late wife, Connie - have kept me busy. I have, however, been able to carve out time for various activities in my community and my profession which I enjoy.

Without a doubt, my greatest satisfaction has come from my children and now my grandchildren. My son, Ben, is a foreign affairs journalist who is now graduating from the Woodrow Wilson Masters Program in International Affairs and Public Policy at Princeton. He's heading to Israel after graduation, where he lived before going back to graduate school and where a lot of his work is focused. My daughter, Ilanna, works at the Orthodox Union, where she runs the Department of Data Services. She lives, with her husband, Noam Heller, and two beautiful daughters (Sophia and Micaela), in Englewood, New Jersey. My youngest, daughter Arielle, is also married (to Solly Silverman) and lives with her husband in Forest Hills, NY. Arielle is a post-partum nurse at NYU.

While I still live and work in Newton, MA, much of my time is spent in the New York area with my kids, my girlfriend Rebecca Hecht (a Brandeis "shidduch," as we were fixed up by Brandeis classmate and suitemate Michael Braunstein's wife) and, of course, my best buddy - my sister, Ruthie.

Professionally, I practice general dentistry in an office attached to my home and I teach at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, where I have been actively affiliated since I first went in to practice. I am currently President of the school's Harvard Odontological Society.

Being active in the Jewish community has always been important to me, as it was back at Brandeis (where I majored in NEJS), and I have been involved with a number of organizations. By far, my biggest "pet project" has been an annual lecture series in the community in memory of my late wife, Connie, where personalities of renown from across the spectrum of Jewish affiliation and ideology are brought in to address the broader Jewish community. The substantial success of this endeavor, which focusses on Jewish unity and brings the community together in large numbers, has been enormously gratifying and is a wonderful tribute to a great gal.

Fortunately, however, I have been able to find happiness again with Rebecca. We have many places we can call home - Newton, Lido Beach NY (her place), Cape Cod (my summer home), and the homes of my kids and my sister - and we are blessed that, wherever we are, life is good and surrounded by those we love.

## Ruth Birnbaum (my name in 1976), now Ruth Birnbaum Pernick

I have been happily living in Nanuet, NY with my wonderful husband, Dan, for the past 31 years. The first year we were married we lived in Worcester, Mass. I am still teaching in the religious school at Beth Am Temple in Pearl River, NY, where Dan is the Rabbi. I also teach one afternoon a week at Montebello Jewish Center.

My favorite hobby is singing. I sing in 2 Jewish choruses: Shirah at the JCC on the Palisades in Tenafly, NJ and the Zamir Chorale in NYC.

Our 4 children are grown and out of the house. They continue to bring us lots of naches and pride. Sarah (30) and her husband, Rabbi Joel Dinin live in Baltimore. Joel is the Associate Rabbi at a Modern Orthodox shul and Sarah works at the Peabody Conservatory. They have given us the best gift ever - our 16 month old granddaughter, Meira! Ben (29) is a music therapist in Queens, NY and a stand-up comedian. Josh (27) is studying to be an Orthodox rabbi at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in Riverdale, NY. Our youngest, David (24) is following his dream to be a songwriter out in LA for now.

My brother, Herb, and I continue to be close to our many lifelong Brandeis friends!

I just retired after 28 years of being a Brandeis off-campus interviewer and more recently, chairperson for Rockland/Orange counties.

I look forward to seeing what the next 40 years has in store for me. Hopefully the continuation of wonderful (and growing) family, friends, music and more joy!





## Harvey Blank

**Career:** In June of 2014, I retired after 25 years of service as an attorney with the U.S. Department of the Interior, including three years in management. My work focused on mining and environmental regulation. The work was interesting and, over the course of my career, I helped develop national regulations which improved the lives of Americans in mining communities. I also participated in major environmental litigation as an in-house counsel for the Department. It was an honor to serve the Department and six Secretaries of the Interior.

**Personal:** I have been married to my wife Ellen since 1979. I am very fortunate to spend my life with her. She is a wonderful wife and mom. We have two adult children, Jack and Leah, who are productive members of society. In 2013, Jack married Alicia and they had a great wedding. In 2015, they produced a terrifically cute grandson named Desmond. As a retiree, I get to spend the best hours of my week with that child. I am grateful to have lived to have a grandchild and to have the chance to participate in his growth and development as a good person.

**What I value about my years at Brandeis:** I was encouraged to find meaning and quality in my life. I also became friends with Scott Edelman and Louis Yelgin who have been there for me and my family over the course of the last 40 years.

**Goals ahead:** I want to spend my senior years with my family and be there for Desmond's Bar Mitzvah and, later, his graduation from high school. Anything more would be even better. I am attaching a picture of my family. This picture reflects what I consider to be of primary importance at this stage of my life.



## Michael B. Bogdanow

[REDACTED]

All is well with Margie and me. We have been living in Cambridge, Massachusetts for a little over five years, and are enjoying it very much.

Our son Matt is a musician in L.A., married to Hannah Gibson. Our son Dan works for Major League Baseball, and is married to Lauren, who gave birth to Ava in 2014. Our daughter Alyssa just graduated from Brandeis's Heller and Hornstein graduate programs, and works for the Jacobson Family Trust Foundation in Boston.

Margie works as a consultant, including working for Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the Union for Reform Judaism, finding new ways to engage teens with Judaism. I continue to practice law at Meehan, Boyle, Black & Bogdanow, P.C. (MeehanBoyle.com), primarily representing accident victims in a variety of practice areas, including products liability, medical malpractice, pharmaceutical litigation, motor vehicle accidents and many others. In 2013, our firm obtained a \$63 million jury verdict against Johnson & Johnson in a case involving a young girl who was given Children's Motrin to treat a mild fever, and suffered catastrophic injuries. I successfully argued the case before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

I was named Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's 2015 Lawyer of the Year and U.S. News & World Report's Best Lawyers Boston 2015 Appellate Lawyer of the Year. I also continue to maintain my art career (MichaelBogdanow.com), and recently exhibited twelve of my paintings at a gallery in Harvard Square.

Margie and I enjoy traveling - having already explored most of Western, Central, and Eastern Europe, and elsewhere, we are headed to Japan and will be there during reunion. Very sorry that we will miss seeing you! At other times, we find rest and relaxation closer to home, on White Oak Pond in Holderness, NH.



## Valerie Carter



After all these years I can still say that Brandeis is my favorite four years! It has been a springboard for everything I've accomplished professionally opening doors I never expected to walk through.

My law career has been diverse, hectic, rewarding, long and has given me an opportunity to represent a wonderfully diverse group of institutional clients as well as colorful indigent clients in federal court matters.

My personal life has been equally satisfying and includes six grandchildren who we visit often and travel around the world with to experience the wonder of different cultures and histories.

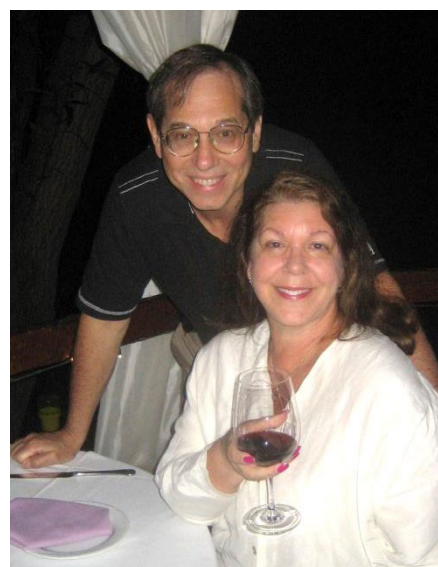




**Debra L Chernick**

I have been a practicing attorney in southern Rhode Island for 34 years and still enjoy what I do. Most weeks I split my time between southern Rhode Island and Washington D.C.

My girls are 28 and 30 while Brian's are 25, 27 and 29. Between us, we have 5 daughters! OY! So now that the hard part is over, the kids are all settled, it's time to remarry. Wedding is set for November, 2016.



## Jum Phot Chuasai

[REDACTED]

After Brandeis as a Wien student, I went to Boston College for M.A. in International Relations. In 1979, I started my career with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees working on Thai - Cambodian borders, and Laotian refugee camps in Thailand. In early 1980s, I was posted in Hong Kong and Switzerland. I spent several years in different UN agencies and left the international organizations to start my own consultancy business, based in Geneva and Bangkok. From 1997 to 2015, I was managing director of a leadership management firm based in Bangkok, a job which was much fulfilling for me.

I am now semi-retired and travel between my two homes in Bangkok and in France.

I have a 24 year old son, Sarin who has just graduated from a university in Switzerland in hospitality management. I am now a director in two public companies in Thailand, actively engaged in several civic organizations. I am honorary secretary of the Siam Society under the royal patronage, secretary general for Fund for Classical Music Promotion and past president of Rotary Club Bangkok -Ploenchit.

I wrote two books in Thai, have been travelling extensively. My next project is to do a pilgrim walk with my son in Tibet to Mt. Kailash.



## Dana L. Cohen

[REDACTED]

My wife Ginny and I are loving living in the beautiful seaport city of Gloucester, MA. We have been married since our graduation year of 1976! Our daughters Rachel and Laura are both doing well and we enjoy are two granddaughters Silvana, age four and Olivia, age two. I continue to work as an Optician and am busy with my two Medford Optical stores, one being located at Boston Children's Hospital across the street from Brandeis! When I am not fitting eyeglasses I enjoy taking walks with my wife on the back shore of Gloucester and playing trombone with the Cape Ann Big Band. It's hard to believe it's been 40 years since our Brandeis days.





**Mitchell Cohen**

[REDACTED]

Leslie and I have been married for almost 39 years, and have two married sons and three grandkids, who keep us busy.

My best memories of Brandeis were spending times in Massell Quad, enjoying times in the lounges and in the dining hall, with some weekend road trips. I remember the Wednesday night basketball games with friends in the gym, although most of my time was spent either in class or in the library...like many of our classmates.

After Brandeis, I moved to California to attend law and business school at UC Berkeley. Leslie and I returned to the Boston area thereafter, since family and friends were here, and ultimately we settled in Newton for 22 years to raise our two boys. During that time, I practiced law and then joined Gordon Brothers in 1990. We moved to the New York area in 2012 to be close to our married sons and the grandkids.

We look forward to many years ahead watching them all grow.

## Rona Daniels

I retired two years ago after a 35 year career as a Tax Attorney, most of it (26 years) spent at Citigroup in NYC.

When not working I was traveling (42 countries and counting), road biking, hiking and skiing. I met my husband of 17 years, Mark Casey, on a trek to K2 Base Camp in Pakistan in 1997. We have 2 cats and no kids. Still based in NYC, but also have had a condo in Steamboat Springs, CO, for many years, and as of last year we are spending about half the year there. We both became Ski Instructors there last winter, which has been a fantastic second career. Any classmates who happen to be out there in the winter, look me up!

Photos attached are from a recent bike trip in Croatia, glacier climbing in Iceland in 2013, and in ski instructor uniform at Steamboat this past winter.



**Sharon Davis (my name in 1976), now Sharon Paster**

I'm a painter in Sausalito, CA [www.sharonpaster.com](http://www.sharonpaster.com)





## Scott Edelman

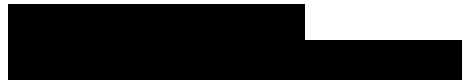
I retired last year after 35 years of federal service, first in the CIA and then at the State Department, as an intelligence analyst and diplomat. My overseas assignments as a diplomat were in Romania, Poland, the Bahamas, Somalia, Egypt, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Bahrain. I also taught international relations for two years at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

The highlight of my time as the American Consul in Izmir, Turkey was meeting my lovely wife, Dr. Aylin Edelman (I went all the way to Turkey to meet the proverbial "nice Jewish doctor"! ) The highlight of our time in Colorado was the birth of our son, Eytan, who is now eight and a third-grader at Jewish Day School.

Looking back, I still treasure friendships made at Brandeis, including with some of the professors I had. I still remember much from the best classes I took, and especially from my junior year at the Hiatt Institute in Jerusalem.

Looking forward, I expect eventually to do some writing based on my overseas experiences, but for now I am just enjoying not getting up at 5 AM to go to work and spending more time with my wife and son (including playing golf with Eytan, who is quite the enthusiast!)



**Irene Feigenoff (my name in 1976), now Irene Barrow**

Two children, two grandchildren. Still practicing law in Flagstaff, Arizona, representing Native American individuals and tribes. Looking forward to retirement and new adventures. Visitors welcome!



## Ellen Feinberg (my name in 1976), now Ellen Feinberg Blitz

When last we met (in 2011), my divorce had just been finalized, my older son, Zach, had moved across the country for a job, joining my younger son, Jared, in LA. I was working on my post financial crisis career rebound living in a beautiful, suburban, empty-nest that I no longer needed. My life was in limbo, but I was hopeful.



That fall, I joined Hess Corporation's corporate communications team, a career move that changed my life...for the better. The first 17 months were exhilarating, learning about the energy industry. In early 2013, Hess announced we were exiting the terminal, refinery, retail and energy marketing businesses and morphing into an exploration and production company. I was asked to relocate to Houston, where those operations are based. With both sons living in LA, I jumped at the prospect of being closer to them and part of Hess' transformation.



The last three years are a bit of a blur and an emotional roller coaster. I shuttled between NY and Houston before moving to Houston at the end of 2014. The move has been good for my career and quality of life, though I miss the friends and extended family I left back East...not to mention the topography.

Right now, I'm loving my job and have no plans to retire. A lot depends on my family. Zach married Sarah in 2014 and Jared is marrying Sara in 2017. It's rumored that grandchildren are in the offing. If that blessing is bestowed upon me, I may feel different about living and working in Houston. Until then, I'm living the snowless dream in the Bayou City.

I'm still a gym rat, spending non-working hours doing yoga and working out. I hike whenever I can, mostly in Malibu and Pacific Palisades on visits to California to see my sons and their Sara(h)s. My most recent vacations were to the Grand Tetons and Santiago, Chile & Mendoza, Argentina (that included several hikes in the Andes).

After 13 years of being single, I'm ready to start dating again, though terrified of searching online. So if you know a smart, funny, kind, good-looking, fit, active, independent man, (sans baggage), send him my way!



**Andrew Freeman**

Howdy!

After finishing my training at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, I returned to Texas where I have lived ever since. I am still married to my wonderful Brandesian wife, Joyce Wishkin Freeman '77. We have two grown children, one local, one currently in Hanover, NH (although we would love to get him back to Texas).

I am a semi-retired anesthesiologist, looking forward to family time and travel. I have some fond memories of my years at Brandeis, and of people there with whom I have, unfortunately, lost touch. I am glad that I am not a current student at Brandeis with the rise of the campus cry bullies, previously aided and abetted by Fred Lawrence and other teaching staff. Fred has, fortunately, moved on. L'chaim!

Andy

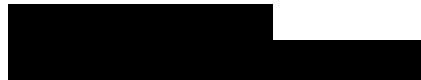




**Laurie Gilbert** (my name in 1976), now **Laurie Gilbert Albert**

David and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in June. We raised 3 wonderful kids - eldest (physicist) is getting married later this summer. Middle is a localization engineer (translates software into Japanese) in New Jersey. Youngest graduated from Brandeis four years ago and is a local teacher.

I work in Synagogue Administration and have continued to volunteer for several organizations. I still sing with my Temple choir and cannot be with you this weekend as I am singing at the Delaware Valley Jewish Choral Festival.

**Robert Glaskin**

I am currently living in Randolph, MA with my wife Janis and three children Jessica, Rebecca, and Eric. After retiring from the beverage industry I am now the owner of Polar Bear Charters. A fishing charter business based out of Scituate, MA. I look forward to seeing all my old classmates.



**Amy Ellen Goch**

[REDACTED]

After graduating from Brandeis University, I moved to Atlanta, GA, where I attended Emory University and received my doctorate in Clinical Psychology. I married a fellow doctoral student, Mark McLeod, and we have both worked as psychologists in the Atlanta area, where we have lived ever since.

Mark recently retired from Emory University, where he worked as a staff psychologist and served as Director of the Student Counseling Center for over 35 years. I still maintain my private practice and enjoy my affiliation with Emory University, where I have taught and provided training to psychology graduate students and interns over the years.

Mark and I recently celebrated our 35-year anniversary. We have two children: our daughter, Stephanie, who graduated from Rice University and now lives in the Seattle area where she tutors students of all ages; our son, Andrew, who graduated from Emory University and is currently attending the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) where he is a doctoral student in the Department of Informatics. Mark and I love travelling, which is fortunate since our children live in cities which are lovely to visit and quite far away.

I look back on my years at Brandeis with very fond memories and a deep appreciation for helping to expand my world view and expose me to a wide variety of people and ideas. My time at Brandeis opened up so many new possibilities and options for what my life could be, and for that I will always be grateful.

## Mark Goldstein and Lea La Due (my name in 1976), now Mark and Lea Goldstein

It's hard to believe it's been 40 years since our graduation from Brandeis. I prefer to call this the 8th Reunion for the Class of '76 rather than our 40th. In the 5-year time scale that we use to measure reunions, not much has changed for us overall.

Lea continues to perform on violin with Symphony New Hampshire and teach private students at home. I'm still working as a software engineer at Rocket Software in Waltham, just a few miles from Brandeis.



In our last update, we were in the college planning process for our daughter Carolyn. We are happy to report that Carolyn chose to attend Syracuse University as a violin performance major. Mid-way through her first year, she decided to double up with a major in Music History and Culture. She graduates two weeks before our reunion, with honors, and gets to relax for a few weeks before starting grad school. She's staying at Syracuse to get an M.A. in Arts Leadership.

Outside of work and school, we still ski and skate. The first photo was taken at Wildcat Mtn in NH last winter when we had snow and cold weather. The second photo is the three of us being tourists at the Rodin Museum in Paris. Carolyn was in Strasbourg, France for 5 months for her semester abroad. We were able to visit her for a week when classes ended. In spite of the railroad strike, we were able to get to Paris for few days on the TGV (high speed train).

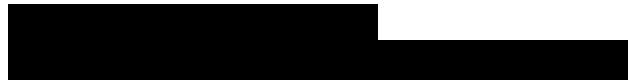


The last photo includes Carolyn giving a tour of the bell tower at Syracuse. She is one of the Chime Masters who ring the bells every day to start and end the school day.





**Rosalyn Maletz Goldstein**



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**Ben Gomes-Casseres** -- see page for **Susan Wexler**

## Kenneth Gorfinkle

[REDACTED]

I live in Manhattan with my wife, Doris Ullendorff, whom I met in grad school. We have 3 kids, ages 27, 25 and 23, all finding their way in the world. I have been with the Columbia University Medical School for 24 years as a Medical Psychologist. I am the Author of "Soothing Your Child's Pain; From Teething to Tummy Aches, Acute Illnesses to Injuries, The Common Sense Reference to Easing theHurt."

Doris and I are psychologists in a practice called Common Sense Therapy. We care for adults and children encountering medical illnesses, as well as anxiety and mood disorders.

Looking back, I most value my time with Norm Levine and the track team, and with Gilbert & Sullivan Society. I enjoyed courses with professors Bill Cloonan, Nachum Glatzer, and especially Art Wingfield.

Of late I am Scientific Director and Board Chairman of The Betes Organization, helping people understand the meaning of chronic conditions through the magic of theater and puppetry. We bring creative programming to adults and children living with diabetes, and are engaged in a lively dialogue with a vibrant online community of patient advocacy and social change.



## Susan Greenbaum

[REDACTED]

I live in Teaneck, New Jersey with my 23 year-old daughter who graduated from college a year ago and is working in NYC and my 17 year-old son who is a high school junior.

After Brandeis, I went to New York, got my MSW and have been in the Jewish Communal world ever since. I got married, have been divorced for seven years and have the joy of two great kids who keep me laughing. I'm currently executive director of our local Jewish Family Service, doing important work and feeling proud of this very long career.

I think about Brandeis often and will be eternally grateful for my time there and abroad. In retrospect, I was way too young to maximize my time and experience at Brandeis academically or developmentally but my hunch is that many of us often feel that way about youth overall. I'm really looking forward to just being back on campus and taking a spiritual look back on that very special time....



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## Rachel Greenberg (my name in 1976), now Rachel Greenberg Levenberg

[REDACTED]

2016 marks fortieth wedding anniversary. Three great kids. We have been around the world and back and it seems like Brandeis was always the right choice. I have had a lucky life.

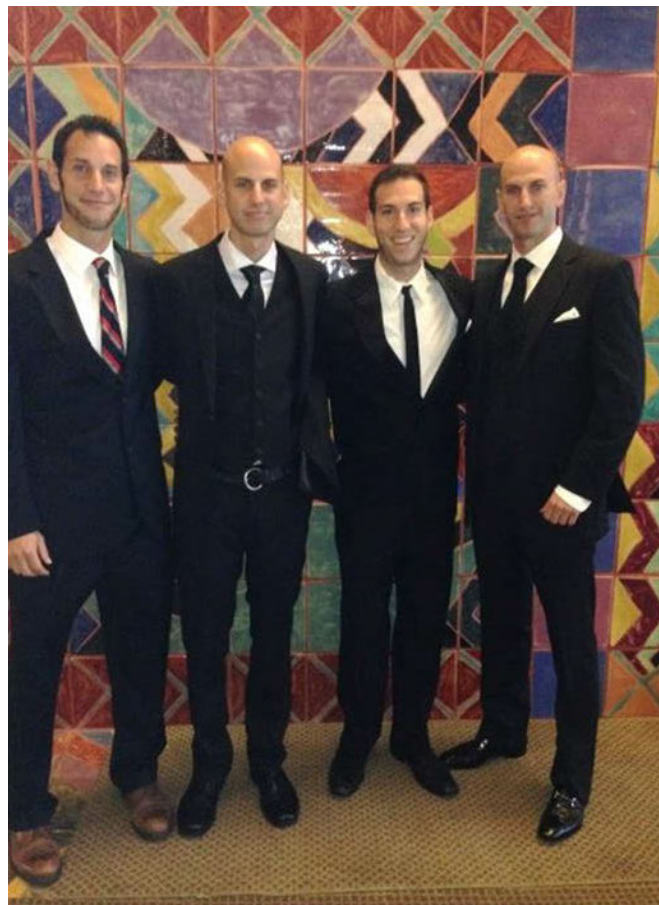
**Ruth Hurwitz (my name in 1976), now Ruth Ehrlich**

[REDACTED]

Since the last big reunion, there have been a few changes, including one son has gotten married to a lovely woman whom he met at Camp Yavneh (same place Barry and I met), and another son will be married at the end of this year to a lovely woman whom he met at a University of Wisconsin.

Barry and I still live in Newton, MA, and we both work in Waltham! Barry is a physician, and I am a Speech Pathologist. One of our four sons graduated from Brandeis.

We are looking forward to more exotic travel as we think about cutting back at our jobs; so far just thinking, but it will be nice when we can!





## Warren Hyams

[REDACTED]

I had been looking forward to our 40th reunion. However, the reunion weekend conflicts with my oldest child's high school graduation. Hopefully, we will have many more reunions. My daughter has only one high school graduation so that is where I will be.

Life was good at Brandeis and it has been good since then. My wife and I have three children - a 12th grade daughter (headed to Cornell in the fall), a 10th grade daughter, and an 8th grade son. We live in suburban Philadelphia. My kids think it is quite funny that some of my Brandeis classmates may have grandchildren their age. I waited until I was 42 to get married.

Following Brandeis I attended graduate school at the Sloan School of Management at MIT. My first full-time job was at Ford Motor Company in Michigan. Prior to starting that job I spent about four months traveling around the world with an airline ticket purchased from Pan Am that permitted unlimited travel.

I thought I would work for Ford for one year then move on. I ended up staying for ten years. For the past 25 years I have worked by and for myself managing money for investors.

My plan is to attend our next reunion. In the meantime, I would enjoy reconnecting with old friends.



## Dov Hyman and Linda Snitkof Hyman

Forty years later, and still crazy after all these years!

Post Brandeis, we have enjoyed a wonderful life adventure with interesting careers and raising and watching our four children blossom and build their own lives.

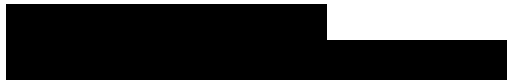
Dov has continued managing Dolin International and traveling the globe as a specialist in a crazy field called Industrial Partnership /Offsets.

Linda has continued her career in Finance and now works for a real estate firm in Rye, New York.



We are looking forward to our next chapter where we will become grandparents this coming Fall. We look forward to seeing our friends at Reunion.



**Elissa Kahn** (my name in 1976), now **Elissa Kahn Halperin**

Retirement! It takes some getting used to!

After a busy and fulfilling career as in-house counsel to companies in the pharmaceutical industry, and having been made redundant in several corporate mergers, I decided it was time. My husband, Richard ('74), and I relocated to Sarasota, FL, where the weather is beautiful and the pace is slower.

Our three "children" live and work in the NYC area, so we still spend some time in NJ. Last year, we celebrated the marriage of our first daughter, a lovely milestone! Looking forward to having grandkids.

In the meantime, we plan to travel, and just returned from a month in S.E. Asia - not a bad start! From Brandeis to now has been quite the journey. We consider ourselves so fortunate for our wonderful family and all the experiences we've shared over the years.

## Douglas Katz

[REDACTED]

My wife Kim and I continue to live in Newton, empty nesters for several years. We relish our time with our children who have busy lives of their own. We enjoy time together during the summer on Martha's Vineyard and last summer we had the wonderful opportunity to visit Korea and Bali with our daughter, Rachel. Rachel (29) lives in Cambridge and is a PhD candidate in Child Study and Human Development at Tufts. Our son Dan (25), Brandeis class of 2012, is now in New York City working as Chief of Staff at the Huffington Post.

Kim continues her career in education and media, in recent years developing local and national programs and web-based materials, and lecturing nationally and internationally (most recently Abu Dhabi) on bullying prevention. She also loves her time playing team tennis. I continue my career as a neurologist, subspecializing in rehabilitation and cognitive neurology, with clinical and research interests in traumatic brain injury. I am Professor of neurology at BU School of Medicine and practice at Boston Medical Center and at Braintree Rehabilitation Hospital as Medical Director of the Brain Injury Program. Last November I became President of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM), adding a little more to my overfilled schedule. I also try to squeeze in a little time playing tennis on weekends.

I have fond memories of my years at Brandeis, though surely more and more distant. How can it be 40 years? I look forward to recalling more of them on Reunion Weekend.





**Elayne Kesselman**

[REDACTED]

After Brandeis, I graduated from law school, then moved to Manhattan to work. I still live on the Upper West Side with my twins, Kate (Brandeis, class of 2019) and Matthew (University of Virginia, class of 2019) and our two cats.

In 1994, I started my own matrimonial law practice and have been a sole practitioner ever since.

Moving Kate into Brandeis in the fall of 2015 brought back so many good memories - the classes, the women's swim team, working the kosher food line! There may be a lot of new buildings on campus, but I can tell from Kate's experience that Brandeis's ability to attract a very special student body remains unchanged from when it accepted the Class of 1976!!!

Best wishes to everyone!

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**Allyce Kimerling**

[REDACTED]

I am a lead trial attorney and trainer for Cal/OSHA, the largest state workplace safety agency, where I have worked for about 14 years.

My spouse, Frances Rotolo, and I have been together for 23 years. Two years ago, we became guardians for Frances's teen-aged great nephew.

## Janet Kolodner

Great news: I now live in the Boston area, something I've been wanting to do since I graduated Brandeis. Even better news: I'm a savta. Ella Michal was born in October, is named after Mike, and is a sweetie.

What I'm doing: I'm Chief Learning Scientist at The Concord Consortium, a small non-profit that specializes in designing software to support learning science and engineering content and practices. I play mentoring and advisory roles there while also getting my own research up and started. For those who don't remember ;- ) I was on the faculty at Georgia Tech in Computing for 34 years teaching and doing research around how people learn and how to help people learn more deeply and easily -- the discipline is called Learning Sciences. The last four years of my tenure at GA Tech, I was on loan to the government (at the National Science Foundation) managing a program called Cyberlearning and Future Learning Technologies (you can look it up). I was helping other researchers frame their research plans, running a merit review process used to recommend research projects for funding, and involved in other policy work, generally representing the possibilities of learning technologies and the needs of the learning sciences and learning technologies communities. When my time was up at the NSF (they have a 4 year maximum for people on loan), I officially retired from GA Tech and spent the next year figuring out what would come next. I have some big ideas about developing integrated curriculum and software that show what's possible when technology is used well in education and some big ideas about making the public more aware of what school could look like. I've made the Concord Consortium my base, and I'm working on documents and plans to raise money. I'm also working on and planning a few small research projects, all centered on using computers in novel ways to help middle schoolers experience scientific phenomena and the practices of scientists in exciting ways that foster learning.



What I'm doing for fun: I've been singing with Koleinu, a local Jewish chorale. Great music director. I wish I had begun doing this many years ago. I've taken up sewing again. My expensive hobby is beading; I make necklaces; I keep some and give some away, usually to friends and relatives, and sometimes to silent auctions. I'm looking forward to having bookshelves so I can unpack the rest of my boxes, recover all of my sewing and beading materials, make room to get to my craft tables, and get started again.



Would love to get together with Boston-area Brandeis people.

**Morris Kranc (my name in 1976), now Moshe Kranc**

I live in Jerusalem with my wife Elise and our 6 children.

Two months ago, we celebrated the birth of our first grandchild.

I am CTO of Ness Software, which involves teaching emerging technologies to our engineers, as well as trying to sell our development services to potential customers.

I look back fondly on my days at Brandeis, where I learned how to learn, how to think critically, how to organize my thoughts and express them. I continue to enjoy my work, so I am in no rush to retire. When I do hang up my spikes, I look forward to enjoying more of the intellectual pleasures of Jerusalem.



## Steven Kraus



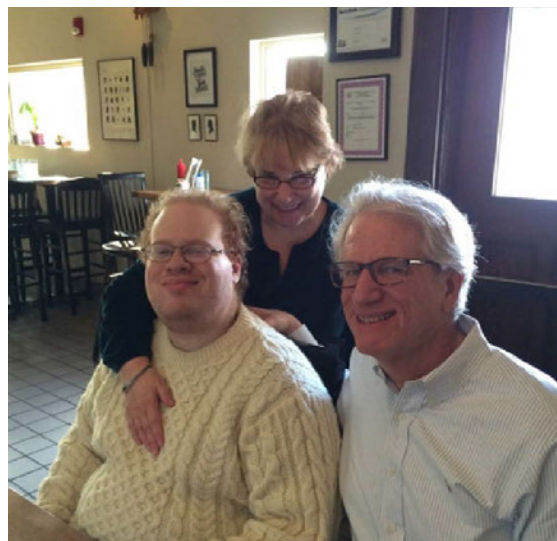
My wife, Jane, and I have been happily married for 35 years. Jane and I met while I was in law school. We have one child, Adam, working as a technical support engineer at a software company in Cambridge, MA. We have lived in a tree lined New Jersey suburb for almost 30 years. It is the kind of town that remembers it's not too far distant rural past. While the town is on the train line to New York City and two interstates, it is also a part of the Great Swamp watershed. When we moved here there were still unpaved roads and only 3 traffic lights.



I have practiced law in New Jersey for 36 years, almost all of that time in a firm that I founded. I continue to enjoy the practice, which is litigating for insurance companies, as it presents a continuing series of new challenges and opportunities for growth. When I first started practicing, we were using carbon sets and books. With technology, that has changed. What remains the same is ordering the facts in our cases into a legally cognizable form to which the law can be applied in order to achieve a result. One of the byproducts of litigation is that sometimes we get to help shape the law in bringing cases on previously unanswered issues before a court. Over the last few years I have had the opportunity to lecture to lawyers and insurance clients in my area of law to help train people to understand not just the mechanics but the purpose and policy for the law.

My undergraduate years at Brandeis was the first time that I was exposed to this idea of teaching based on an understanding of the purpose of the material rather than just the simple application of the material. I remember that when I first got to Brandeis I was amazed to find that there was a place where people were interested in understanding the meaning and purpose of the material we were studying. For many years I have also been active in my local Chabad center and have now started to study Talmud. I find that the framework for much of the common law system is based on Talmudic law. People in the first century dealt with many of the same issues as people in the 21st century.

Jane, Adam and I have traveled to a number of places in the United States, Europe and the Caribbean. Adam took a Birthright trip to Israel. Jane and I expect to visit Israel in the next few years. I have been involved in a few Brandeis activities recently. I joined one of former President Lawrence's Supreme Court Admission trips. Earlier this year I heard Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the kickoff lecture for the 100th Anniversary of Justice Brandeis's nomination to the Supreme Court.





**Joan Krieger (my name in 1976), now Joani Mitchell**

Have been enjoying the beach town of Santa Cruz, California for the last five years.

When not traveling to faraway places such as Vietnam, Cambodia, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Kenya, Colombia, Australia, or cruising the Caribbean, etc. you can find me on the beach walking.

Working as a management consultant for a number of different firms and running a travel consulting business, when I have the time.

Dan my son is getting his MBA from UCLA Anderson School and Rachel my daughter is a Licensed Master of Social Work in San Diego.





**Liane Kupferberg (my name in 1976), now Liane Kupferberg Carter**

[REDACTED]

This is a banner year for me personally and professionally. My husband Marc and I are celebrating our 35th anniversary, as well as the publication of my first book, "Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up With Autism" (Jessica Kingsley Publishers.)

We have two handsome sons, and live in Westchester, New York with our three Maine Coon cats. After Brandeis, I got a Master's in journalism at N.Y.U. and worked in book publishing until we had children. Today I'm a nationally known writer, journalist and advocate for the autism community. My work has been published in the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Parents Magazine, Jewish Week, Newsday, PBS's Next Avenue, Jewish Book Council, Brain, Child Magazine, and numerous literary journals, blogs and book anthologies.

I still treasure my friendships with Brandeis roommates Julie Salzberg Perlin '76, Bari Stauber Adelman '77 and Pat Zadok '77, who, while I was writing my book, fortified me with her famous Patika baked goods and a restorative trip to her vacation house in Umbria.

I'd love to reconnect with Brandeis classmates. I'm on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/liane.carter>



**Lea La Due** (my name in 1976), now **Lea Goldstein** -- see page for **Mark Goldstein**

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### **Michael Leshin**

[REDACTED]

After graduation, I travelled for one year and did the "struggling-actor" routine for two years in NYC and then enrolled in law school. After clerking for two years I practiced with a downtown law firm and then since 1998 with my own law firm - Ginsburg & Leshin, LLP in Wellesley; as a family law attorney and mediator.

I married Roz Taytelbaum in 1979 and we have three wonderful children: Jonah, Miriam and Rachel. All are out of college and embarking on careers. Jonah and his wife, Dahlia, are expecting their first child this August.

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### **Margie Merlin** (my name in 1976), now **Margie Holzre**

[REDACTED]

I am now living in Jacksonville, Florida. My husband Aaron and I moved to be nearer to our granddaughters, Rena and Dafna, ages 3 and 7 months. It's nice being near their parents, too! Our son Jesse is the Cantor at the Jacksonville Jewish Center. His wife Leora works at Fidelity and is the best daughter-in-law ever.

Our daughter Morgan lives in San Francisco and is in charge of Creative Projects at Pivotal Software. We are so proud of our kids!

I have left the field of Jewish education after almost 40 years. I am now pursuing my passion for the arts. I make jewelry, do graphic design and create portraits.

I am sorry I am missing everyone at the reunion. Aaron and I are taking a long-awaited trip to Italy. Hopefully, I will make the next one.

Regards to all, Margie

## Alan Mittleman

[REDACTED]

I've spent my post-Brandeis life mostly in education. After rabbinical and graduate school and a brief stint as a congregational rabbi and an American Jewish Committee staffer, I taught for 16 years at Muhlenberg College and now for 12 years at the Jewish Theological Seminary. I have the privilege of teaching Jewish philosophy and ethics at JTS, an intellectual discipline for which Brandeis prepared me well.

I remember with special fondness my courses with Professors Altmann, Fox, Sarna, and Johnson. The only thing that I regret about Brandeis is that, as a transfer student, I only spent two years there. I wish it had been four.

Although I work in New York, I continue to live in Pennsylvania where I've been happily married for 35 years and have raised two, now adult, sons. When not working and writing, I am an inveterate fly fisherman on Pennsylvania trout streams. I also sail in New York harbor.

Life has been good to me. I am grateful.



## Ruthellen Mulberg

Since my update 5 years ago, I have remained in the same place, i.e., in northeast Florida.

My partner of now 33 years, Andrew, and I are still hangin' on.

I indulge in my artistic interests by participating in community theater and musical groups.

Most of my travels these days involve visits to Connecticut, where my 94-year-old mother now resides in a nursing home near my sister. At this stage in life, those visits are bittersweet, but we all muddle on and do our best to adapt to getting older.

I did have one giant, once-in-a-lifetime adventure when Andrew and I took a 4-month cruise around the world last year! It was exhilarating, exhausting, educational, entertaining and eye-opening all at the same time. The greatest lesson was realizing how little most people in the world have and how fortunate I have been. Of course, having been part of the Brandeis community is one of the experiences for which I am most grateful.

After a 30-year lapse, I WILL be attending the 40th Reunion. I look forward to being on campus and reconnecting with my classmates. For those who will not be attending, I will miss you and wish you all nothing but joy.



## Beth Pearlman

It's ironic to those who know me, but I'm still living in Minnesota and love it here, except for winter - but I've been able to work remotely the last couple of winters in Las Vegas (where a couple of my husband's children live).

I'm Supervising Producer for a national production company based in Minnesota that produces TV shows for Travel Channel, Discovery Channel, OWN, etc. I'm currently working on "Bizarre Foods Delicious Destinations."

The other irony is both my wonderful kids have moved to my old haunt, NYC. One is a lawyer the other is researching for a social impact investing firm, so I visit often and I'm so proud of them both.


My husband, Garry, is retired from as a regional Air Traffic Control chief, but stays busy with exercise and organic tomato farming. I got very lucky second time around to find such an incredibly caring and kind-hearted partner. He has four children and 8 grandchildren living from Las Vegas and Washington DC area (yes, he's older than I am.... MUCH older ;-)

Thanks so much to those who did work on the reunion, and I'm sorry to be missing it, but I'd love to hear from old friends and not so old friends!

Best, Beth





**David Perlin and Amy Sugarman (my name in 1976), now Amy Sugarman Perlin**  


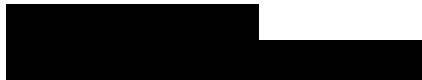
David and Amy first met as freshmen at Brandeis in 1972, and have been married for 38 years. Both attended graduate school at Cornell University.

Now living in New York City, they relocated there several years ago after raising two sons, Joshua, age 30, and Daniel, age 27, in Chappaqua, New York. David leads one of the oldest biomedical research institutes in America. His academic research focuses on overcoming drug resistant bacterial and fungal infections. Amy leads human resources at a global consulting firm.

Sorry to miss reunion, and sending regards to all!

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**Jonathan Plutzik**  


**Lisa Rodman (my name in 1976), now Lisa Schreiber**

My husband and I have lived in Sharon, MA for almost 35 years.

We are so happy that two of our children decided to settle in Sharon with their spouses and our four grandchildren. I am proud to report that our youngest daughter made aliyah and has been living in Israel for ten years.

After Brandeis, I got a Masters from Columbia worked in my husband's CPA office for many years, and raised our 3 children. Our son and his wife are both lawyers. Our daughter, a Brandeis graduate, and her husband are both psychologists and our youngest works in marketing in Tel Aviv.



**Jeffrey P. Rothenberg**

[REDACTED]

Moved to DC after Brandeis.

Moved to Atlanta. Have been in private practice of law for 37 years.

Not too long ago survived open heart surgery.

Looking forward to retiring in a few years.

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**Rosina Rubin**

[REDACTED]

I'm sorry I can't attend reunion weekend. I will be in San Francisco at the opening of an exhibition of paintings by my late aunt, Anna Walinska.

Re-emerging her work has become my passion over the last 18 years, something I do alongside running a business with my husband, Jeff Rose. He started Attitude New York 30 years ago, before I met him ... now there are 75 employees.

In my spare time, I am actively involved in politics. Last year I crossed "have one of my photos used for album art" off my bucket list when the Grateful Dead used some of my work for Dave's Picks #14.

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**Pito Salas**

[REDACTED]

**Julie Salzberg** (my name in 1976), now **Julie S. Perlin**

[REDACTED]

It is hard to believe that 40 years have passed since Barbara Jordan was the speaker at our commencement! After graduation, I moved to Manhattan where I have resided for the past 40 years. I pursued a career in the cosmetics and fragrance industry for 10 years . I married Paul Perlin '74, and we have 2 adult children, Michelle and Daniel, who also live in Manhattan.

I have been a residential real estate broker with Stribling & Associates for the past 14 years and specialize in co-ops, condos and townhouse transactions. I would be delighted to assist you with a purchase or a sale of a home in Manhattan!

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**Aaron Schneider****Harvey Seifter**

[REDACTED]

I've spent the past forty years at the intersection of art, science, learning and business. During my tenure at the helm of Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Magic Theatre of San Francisco and New York's Theater for the New City, these organizations won 5 Grammy Awards, 24 Obie and Critics Circle Awards, and the Kennedy Center Award.

For the past decade, my research into creativity has been supported by the National Science Foundation. In 2010, I founded The Art of Science Learning, currently working on a \$3 million initiative exploring the impact of arts-based learning on creativity, collaboration and innovation in adolescents and adults. (To learn more, please visit [www.artofsciencelearning.org](http://www.artofsciencelearning.org)). I'm also a Visiting Associate Professor of Design, Arts and Cultural Management at Pratt Institute, and I bring my arts--based approaches to innovation, high performance teamwork and cross--cultural communication to General Electric's Global Leadership Institute at Crotonville, where I work with the company's most senior leaders and largest customers.

Since 1995, my wife Marge and I have lived in Turtle Bay in New York City. Our daughter Joanna (JoJo) just turned eighteen and is about to graduate high school. JoJo, who was awarded an Art History Fellowship by the Dedalus Foundation last week, will be off to Macalester in the fall.

What I value most about my Brandeis years are my friendships, which remain the closest of my life.

**Deborah Shapiro**

[REDACTED]

After years of loving living and working in Manhattan I moved to Pittsburgh, my hometown, for the main purpose of caring for my parents who are now both in their 90s.

The common thread throughout post-Brandeis life has been a focus on creative problem-solving.

Life in NYC was centered on design and the arts.

Due to intense immersion in the challenges facing my aging parents I regret falling out of touch with all my classmates and welcome opportunities to reconnect.

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**Nancy Shpiegelman (my name in 1976), now Nancy Steckler**

[REDACTED]

A few years after Brandeis, I married Michael Steckler from MIT whom I had been dating while at Brandeis. He is a research geophysicist at Columbia University. We live in Rockland County, NY outside NYC.

I began a PhD program at Columbia University in cognitive/social psychology, but a few years later, after completing a master's, I switched to a PhD program in clinical psychology at Yeshiva University. I waited to be completing grad school before starting a family, and then had medical issues to recover from after the first pregnancy, so we had our children fairly late. We have two daughters age 25 and 18, born in 1990 and 1997, the older one with special needs. I also became "sandwich generation", taking care of my elderly parents at the same time, having moved them from Boston to the NY area.

I am a clinical psychologist, licensed in NY State, but I have only worked off and on over the years due to family care-taking. I plan to look to seriously return to the work force this Fall (when many others are already retiring) now that our younger daughter is graduating high school and will be starting at the University of Vermont this coming Fall.

I also want to get back to more choral singing. I still keep up with a couple of close friends from Brandeis, and I look back fondly on my years at Brandeis, but I am not able to attend the reunion at this time.



**Birat Simha**

Retired after working for the United Nations for almost 30 years in New York City, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Mongolia. Most of my work was in the population and development field. Currently, I do volunteer work with mental health advocacy in Nepal. I blog occasionally at [www.infotainmentbyhoratio.blogspot.com](http://www.infotainmentbyhoratio.blogspot.com)

I value Brandeis for its high education standard, its liberal arts orientation, its encouragement to think freely, and for the Wien International Scholarship Program which allowed me to attend Brandeis and also to make friends from all over the world.

My FaceBook user name is biratsimha.



## Dennis Slavin

After graduating, I spent time traveling and giving music lessons before going to Princeton for a PhD in musicology.

I'm now in my 30th year at Baruch College/CUNY, half on the music faculty (also at the CUNY Grad Center), half as an administrator (associate provost). As for music making: for the past 20+ years I've been singing Renaissance music from Renaissance notation with friends and colleagues--just for ourselves, not for audiences!

I've remained close friends with Danny Alterman, Russell Galen, Jory Probber, and Harvey Seifter--and many others via Facebook. In 1996 I married a dazzlingly intelligent and beautiful Russian (Julia) with a 3 1/2 year-old daughter (Any), whom we saw happily married on April 28 (hence the photos).

Life is good. Hoping to retire to Italy in five or so years to continue my love affair with their food and wine.



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**Linda Snitkof** (my name in 1976), now **Linda Snitkof Hyman** -- see page for **Dov Hyman**

## Sarah Spivak (my name in 1976), now Sarah Woolf and Lou Woolf

These are deep and scary questions that we don't want to think too much about so we'll tell you the fun stuff.

We married in 1977 which was young, helped each other through grad school and settled in Boston where we raised our family (2 kids; a boy, Josh, now 29, looks like Sarah; and a girl, Becca, 33, looks like Lou). They loved growing up in Boston (and even say they like each other) but Josh settled in LA for love of film, and Becca in Brooklyn for all things NYC. Both of these children threw us for a loop two summers ago when they each got married in the same summer. Miraculously we not only survived but wanted to do it all over again.

Lou has been in health care for the last 20+ years. He was at New England Baptist Hospital for eight years reaching the COO position, at North Shore Medical Center for seven years as COO & EVP, and has been at Hebrew SeniorLife for the last seven years, having been named President & CEO three years ago. I do marvel at his commitment to health care, if I may kvell for one second.

Two years ago, I was named director of the library at Pine Manor College, where I had been Head of Reference for many years. In our spare time we have our little Cape cottage which sits on a dirt road and is within a ten minute walk of the beach we love. We can still hold our own in spin class and we're beginning to travel more. We read a lot and spend as much time with family as they will bear.

Brandeis is precious to us as it gave us each other, our family, and lifelong friends. For this we are always grateful. We're looking forward to grandchildren, retirement and resettlement beyond Boston, and travel.



**Dan Sreebny**  


My Brandeis education and experience (including many happy hours with WBRS!) set me up for my career in diplomacy, which took my family to the Middle East, East Asia, Europe, and Washington.

Today, my wife, Darcy, and I live in Virginia, while our daughters, their spouses, and our granddaughter enjoy life on the West Coast.

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**Amy Sugarman** (my name in 1976), now **Amy Sugerman Perlin** -- see page for **David Perlin**

## Roger Tackeff

After graduating from Brandeis, I attended Harvard Business School. After Business School, I founded a Real Estate Development Company, specializing in Historic Restoration and Preservation, Renaissance Properties. I have been Chairman and CEO, for the last 37 years. So much for multiple careers and mobility.

In 1987, I was incredibly fortunate to meet and marry, the love of my life, Maryanne Monroe. I can't believe, after nearly 28 years, she still puts up with me and we are still each other's, best friend. Our first son Michael, was born in 1989. Michael graduated, with an Undergraduate and Master's Degree, from Brown University, in English Literature and is currently attending Law School. Our youngest son, David, was born in 1992. David graduated from Hamilton College, with a degree in Philosophy and Music Theory. David has just begun a new job, as the Research Director, at Freudenheim Partners, a boutique, real estate, marketing firm. Both sons seem to have followed in the same Liberal Arts tradition and at the moment, thankfully, both still live in Boston.



In addition to my family and Renaissance Properties, I have been fortunate to be involved with and serve on the Boards of a variety of civic, community and philanthropic endeavors. I am currently a Director, or Trustee of a dozen, different organizations, with most of my focus, being on education, hospitals and The Preservation Community. The greatest portion of my philanthropic time, is spent as a Trustee, of Hebrew Senior Life, one of the country's most respected, geriatric care organizations and as Vice Chairman, of The Boston Preservation Alliance, the umbrella organization, which brings together, most of Boston's historic, preservation fabric.

I still live in the Boston area, in Brookline, having moved back to the town, in which I grew up, which is only 15 minutes, from Brandeis. In fact, Maryanne and my boys, can't quite believe that I have never even made it across the Charles River, since even HBS, is on the Boston side of The Charles.

Above all, I still value my four years at Brandeis, as the most important years of my education. Brandeis gave me the opportunity, to find out who I was, who I wanted to become and how to think for myself, hopefully with a generous and critical mind.

At 62, I am now doing my best, to figure out Chapter Two. I feel like I am the luckiest guy in the world.



## Joel Teibloom



I have been a practicing attorney in Chicago, a partner in the firm of Flamm, Teibloom & Stanko, Ltd. since 1992.

I have been married for 10 years to Karin Klein. I had one daughter from my first marriage, Adina, who is now married and living in Haifa, Israel. Karin had two daughters who are both college age, Maddie and Tovah.

I remember our Brandeis years with nostalgia and value friendships that existed and continued.

## Corinne Varon (my name in 1976), now Corinne Varon-Green



I am a visual artist splitting my time between Boston and Costa Rica. My website is [www.corinnevaron.com](http://www.corinnevaron.com)



## Mary Helan Vesenka (my name in 1976), now Mary Helan Vesenka Turner

A couple of years after graduating from Brandeis with a degree in Theater Arts, Mary Helan was accepted in the Peace Corps and served two years in a barrio in northern Philippines and six months with the UN High Commission for Refugees with Lao, North Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. She enrolled at University of Hawaii in Manoa and, en route to receiving a PhD in Agricultural Economics, married her SCUBA instructor, Keith Turner. Employed as an economist in the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture just as thousands of acres of sugar cane were being taken out of production, Mary Helan worked on finding niche and alternative crops for unemployed ag workers. She also raced outrigger canoes and bicycles and set the women's record, twice, for a time trial from sea level to the top of 10,000' Haleakala Volcano.

That was BC of course (Before Children). When their three children, James, Daniel and Rebecca came along, Mary Helan left the government to work as executive director of a couple of green nonprofits (bicycle education and recycling) while Keith traveled the world filming underwater and aerials for natural history documentaries for National Geographic and BBC. In 1996, they began a new life in Massachusetts, taking over the family business (which was also her childhood home): the Friendly Crossways Retreat Center in the bucolic town of Harvard.

Opened in 1947, Friendly Crossways is the longest continually operating Hostelling International hostel in the US. It also has hosted peace and justice, alternative healing, musical, educational and other nonprofit groups. More recently, many summer weekends have been devoted to outdoor wedding celebrations where Mary Helan caters farm to table food from her organic gardens, orchards and award winning honey from her friendly honeybees. Harvard is a quintessential New England town run by volunteer organizations and Mary Helan and Keith have engaged in their community and civic duty for the town over the past 20 years. Mary Helan was president of the Garden Club of Harvard and a member of the Harvard Cultural Council and Warner Free Lecture Committee. She has also reignited her passion for acting, and has appeared on stage in many community theater productions. Owning Friendly Crossways meant the Vesenka Turner family could stay at hostels and SCUBA dive around the world. It also provided an opportunity for Mary Helan to learn how to prepare international cuisines first hand from local chefs.

Now that the children are grown and on their own (James is an apprentice luxury watchmaker in Germany, Daniel a freelance environmental videographer in DC and Rebecca is a professional actress in Richmond VA), Mary Helan and Keith look forward to more adventures, preferably involving warm, tropical waters, at least in the winter time.



## David Weisburd

Shelly Landau (class of 76 as well) and I live in Jerusalem, where Shelly is an independent realtor, and I have an appointment at Hebrew University.

We have three children, Sarit (married to Gilad in Modiin), Ariel (married to Elya in Kiryat Shemon) and Noam (in Tel Aviv). We have three adorable and brilliant grandchildren (Daniella, Eli and Eitan).

I have been a Professor at Hebrew University for the last 23 years, and I also have an appointment at George Mason University in Virginia-- so Shelly and I also spend a good deal of time in DC. Last year I received the Israel Prize from the Prime Minister and the President.

I thought of my time at Brandeis, and how the atmosphere of open intellectual inquiry started my academic journey.





## Pattie Weiss (my name in 1976), now Pattie Weiss Levy

After Brandeis, I worked as a journalist for many years, as an editorial assistant at Field & Stream, an assistant editor at New York magazine, then the fashion reporter at USA Today. I moved to West Hartford, CT and married my husband Harlan, a fellow journalist, in 1984, and have remained here ever since.

How time flies even when you're NOT having fun. (Just kidding! Really. We escape from CT to NYC almost every other weekend. That's fun.) After 12 years as a staff writer at the Sunday magazine of The Hartford Courant, I was downsized and decided to free-lance write for The New York Times a bit and stay home with the kids.

But now the kids -- Aidan, a writer and Ph.D candidate at Columbia, and Allegra, a rising young jazz singer -- are no longer home with me. So I keep busy writing a weekly personal blog on my website NiceJewishMom.com. (Looking for a fine wine? Check it out!)

My first book, "The Adulterer's Daughter," will be published this summer. Feel free to check that out too!



**Jeffrey E. Weissmann**

Much has occurred in the past forty years, some sad, others joyful.

My mother passed away sixteen years ago at age 71, and my father last year at age 96. My sweet wife Jill and I have been married nearly 35 years and are blessed with two wonderful sons, two loving daughters-in-law, and two delightful grandchildren.

Our older son, Adam, is now 33 and the speechwriter to the Democratic Whip in Congress. He and his wife Eva have 5 year old Elvis, their friendly rescue dog. Our younger son, Michael, is now 29 and an Orthodox rabbi and teacher. He and his wife Rivki have a nearly three year old son, Yisrael Meir, and nearly two year old daughter, Esther Leah.

Jill and I lived in Westchester County, NY until two years ago, when we moved to Washington, DC to be near the kids, all of whom live locally. I continue to practice law in the area of multifamily housing real estate finance, with a specialty in tax credit and federally subsidized apartment projects.

I treasure the time I had at Brandeis, the professors, and the classmates with whom I've maintained friendships through the years. We have much for which to be thankful. Onward!



## Susan Wexler and Ben Gomes-Casseres

Ben and I met in 1975 at the Brandeis Stein one evening, and it changed our lives forever. After graduation, we both chose schools and paths that would keep us close. This year we are celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Together we have raised our wonderful daughter Rachel -- she graduated Brandeis last year and is now pursuing her dream of becoming a physician at Tufts.

After finishing Brandeis as a pre-med and Studio Art major, I went to Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine. After that, Ben and I spent our honeymoon year in Flint, Michigan, as I completed a residency in foot surgery. We returned to Boston, and I set my solo private practice in Malden, Massachusetts, and have been there ever since. (If you want to know about what might be aching your feet, visit [maldenpodiatry.com](http://maldenpodiatry.com).) My hobbies are needlepoint and jewelry making. Together, Ben and I love bird watching, gardening, and travel to restful places. We also enjoyed completely renovating our 1950s ranch over the last four years.



After taking several detours (Princeton, World Bank, and Harvard Business School), Ben returned “home” to Brandeis, to head up the graduate business programs at the new International Business School. His research and teaching specialty is business strategy and partnerships. Harvard just published his third book on this topic, called “Remix Strategy: The Three Laws of Business Combinations.” On the side, he still loves astronomy and astrophotography, a hobby since his childhood in Curaçao. (His work – professional and astronomical – is online at [remixstrategy.com](http://remixstrategy.com).)

40 years. Wow. Time flew since we bumped into each other in The Stein. We look forward to more – we’re not sure where or what, but together.



**Lou Woolf** -- see page for **Sarah Spivak**

### Louis Yelgin

After retiring from the corporate rat race at Hewlett-Packard and Philips, I returned to graduate school and became certified as a K-12 school counselor. I am currently living the dream as a school-to-career counselor in New Hampshire where I provide "Yale to Jail" counseling services to high school students. It's a great job because the kids make it worthwhile and every day is different. I like using my business background to help students make better career decisions and prepare themselves for life after high school. I continue to be in touch and share family milestones with close friends Ronnie Meckler ('76), Scott Edelman ('76), and Harvey Blank ('76).



When I am away from work and family, I enjoy biking, playing tennis, and woodworking. The mahogany canoe pictured below won the gallery award at a juried show sponsored by the Guild of NH Woodworkers.



**Marcy Zell** (my name in 1976), now **Marcy Zell Lazar**

