

**Brandeis**  
**Class of 1976**  
45<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Yearbook



## Laurie Gilbert Albert

### **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

I was a campus brat – my father worked at Brandeis in the 1950s and early 60s so for me there was no other college to consider.

Loved my time on campus and was so grateful that it was connected by the B&M to Tufts where my high school sweetheart and now husband went to school. I majored in music and have remained musically involved my entire life. I played with local orchestras and a chamber group, and sang with regional and national choirs and continue with our synagogue choir.

We moved to the Philadelphia area for David's graduate school and never left. We have 3 wonderful kids and I was fortunate to be able to stay home with them during the formative years. When they started going away to college, I was able to return to the workforce. Established a fulfilling career in synagogue administration and was able to retire in January 2020 to help care for an ill relative.

Our children are all successful and self-sufficient and we are so proud. My youngest is a Brandeis alum as well! And we are expecting our first grandchild in March 2021!

We had hopes for travel and volunteer work before the pandemic which are deferred but not forgotten. It still may happen....

## Herbert Samuel Birnbaum, D.M.D.

### **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Life has treated me great since our last reunion, as it has since our graduation. As always, I count the blessings of family at the top of the list, followed by good friends, a great community and professional fulfillment.

It has been 18 years since I've been able to hug the love of my life, Connie (who was a graduate of Brandeis' Hornstein Program), but everything wonderful that we shared lives on through our 3 precious kids and 5 grandkids - each one its own unique package of perfection. Benjy is now 36. He is, by profession, a journalist, having written primarily for the New Republic, as well as for a number of other publications, including Newsweek, Politico, and the New Yorker. He also has appeared on TV for CNN, MSNBC, BBC and others. After graduating Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School, he embarked on a mission to help promote peace between Israel and its neighbors, rather than reporting on its absence. He started an organization called the Regional Organization for Peace Economics and Security, which, flying under

the radar, has been instrumental in recruiting young leaders and influencers from Israel, the Arab world, the US, Europe, and elsewhere to build the foundations for a warm and lasting peace. He essentially lives out of a suitcase but considers Israel home, as well, of course, as Boston. Having said that, he has pretty much replaced "Where's Waldo."

Ilanna, 34, lives in Englewood, NJ, with her wonderful husband, Noam (consultant for Price Waterhouse), and 3 kids - Sophia, Micaela & Jack. For a number of years, she was Director of Data Services for the Orthodox Union but, to be available for her kids, she transitioned to selling real estate and, in a relatively short time, has built an outstanding reputation and is thriving.

Arielle, about to turn 31, is a post-partum nurse at NYU's Langone Hospital. It is a perfect job for this beautiful, caring soul. Her husband, Solly, is a resident at South Nassau Hospital, in Long Island. They have a delicious daughter, Lizzy, and son, Charlie, and they live in Forest Hills, NY.

I'm still practicing dentistry out of my home/office in Newton Centre. It feels as if my career is enjoying a wonderful crescendo, as I am currently an Assistant Professor at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Program Chair of the American Academy of Dental Science, President of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (dentistry's Phi Beta Kappa) at Harvard, and Past President of the Harvard Odontological Society. My true passion, though, manifests in a community-wide lecture in memory of my beloved Connie, now in its 18th year, that brings in luminaries from across the religious and political Jewish world.

It should come as no surprise that my best friend in the world remains my sister, Ruthie. My non-family best friend is former Brandeis Swimming Team teammate, Rob Kerwin. We are as close as two pals can be and look forward, each year, to our annual reunion with our old teammates the day before Thanksgiving.

# Harvey Blank

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

In 2014, I retired as a Senior Attorney specializing in the environmental control of mining after 25 years in public service with the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. Over all, I liked my job. It was a means of working on public policy issues in Government without having to run for office. Some of the regulations that I helped write and lawsuits that I oversaw improved the quality of life for Americans in Western States and Appalachia. Also, I had the opportunity of getting to know people from many parts of the country that I would not have otherwise encountered including residents of Indian reservations and American Territories.

I have been married to my wife Ellen for 42 years. We have two adult children, Leah and Jack. Jack is married to our daughter-in-law Alicia and they have two young children, Desmond and Shira. I am proud of my adult children and daughter-in-law. They are good people and are devoted to our family. Also, they work hard and are very responsible adults. The two grandchildren are adorable and very entertaining. While

my son and daughter-in-law work, I spend most of my time taking care of my granddaughter. My grandson attends virtual kindergarten.

At this stage of life, it is a privilege to be able to interact with those two little grandchildren and see them grow and develop. It makes me happy, particularly given all of the misery that Covid-19 has brought to the country.

Over the years, I have kept in touch with Louis Yelgin and Scott Edelman. Recently, I reconnected with Andrew Levenson. So, I am grateful for those lifetime Brandeis friendships.

I recognize, as Bill Clinton has said, that "our yesterdays far outweigh the numbers of tomorrows that we have left." So, my plan is to spend as much time as I can with my family, particularly my grandchildren, and be grateful that I have the luxury of being able to do this.



Harvey, Ellen , and Leah



My son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren

# Michael Bogdanow

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Margie and I, and our children, children-in-law, and grandchildren are fortunate to have survived the pandemic very well. Our fifth grandchild was born during the pandemic, and is our only one in the Boston area - Eleanor "Ellie" Arens, our daughter Alyssa and her husband Andy's first child. Since she's nearby, we've been able to help out a lot with day care, and it's been a blast. It's been tougher to see our other family members - Matt and his wife Hannah have a daughter, Reid, in Los Angeles, and Dan and his wife Lauren have three kids, Ava, Lila, and Max, in New York. The pandemic made visits to L.A. impossible, and to New York pretty restricted. But thanks to vaccinations, we see a light at the end of the tunnel. We are beginning to see the New York branch, and planning a trip to L.A. sometime this spring.

Since the pandemic began, we've divided our time between Cambridge and our house in New Hampshire, which is in a beautiful, safe, and remote area, where we've been able to do lots of outdoor water

and land activities. I've still been practicing law, and have been painting - you can see my art at

<http://www.michaelbogdanow.com/>

I feel horrible for all the people who've been so hurt by the pandemic, but we've been blessed with a relatively easy path through it.



Michael, Margie, Kids, Kids-in-Law,  
Grandkids, and Granddog



I painted "Pillars" in the midst of all the racial strife during the early months of the pandemic.



# Liane Kupferberg Carter

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

When I graduated 45 years ago, I planned to write the next Great American Novel. I imagined I'd host fabulous literary salons and lunch at the Algonquin, and found a job in publishing. I was a recovering English major, surrounded by walls of free books I was paid to read, which was like letting a chocoholic loose in a candy factory. A couple of years later, on a Club Med vacation to Paradise Island (with Bari Stauber Adelman '77), I met a guy. Two weeks later we were engaged. A week before the wedding, I finished my master's in journalism. A famous agent took me on as a client. My literary aspirations were set to launch.

You know that old Yiddish saying, "Man plans, and God laughs"?

Life threw us a major plot twist when our son was diagnosed with autism and epilepsy. I became a fierce advocate, taking to heart the Brandeis ideal of Tikkun Olam -- the responsibility each of us has to repair the world. I founded a special education PTA, led walk teams to raise money for

research, spoke on panels, wrote articles for the New York Times parenting section, and published pieces in the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, and many magazines, journals, and blogs. I had so much to say that I realized I was writing a book -- not a great American novel, but a memoir, the kind of book I wished we'd had when we started our autism journey. Eventually I sold "Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up with Autism" to a publisher. I spent a year as an author on tour for the Jewish Book Council's Speakers Series. My memoir was the featured book for Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month, and the American Society of Journalists and Authors selected it as an Outstanding Book of the Year.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of my husband, Marc. We are celebrating our 40th anniversary this year. Our two sons are thriving, and we're looking forward to the wedding of the older one this fall. I'm working on a collection of humorous essays, several of which have already been

published by New York Magazine, Next Avenue, and elsewhere. Marc provides me with some of my best material—he even claims he doesn't mind when I occasionally throw him under the bus.

Along with our reunion chair Dov Hyman, his wife Linda, and other families, we've recently launched Spectrum Designs in Westchester, a business with a social mission to help individuals with autism lead full and productive lives.

All of us are contending with something -- a parent with dementia; a child in crisis; a sick spouse. Life throws plot twists at everyone. We're continually trimming the sails, making course corrections, and navigating the unexpected (Covid-19, I'm looking at you.)

I guess with age comes wisdom. Also, a Medicare card.



Roommates Julie Salzberg Perlin & Liane Kupferberg Carter at the 40th class reunion



Liane Kupferberg Carter & Marc Carter

## Valerie S. Carter

### Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Brandeis couldn't have been a better springboard for the many decades to come in my life. Without the University's forward-thinking and progressive approach to higher education, giving me a single mother of two young boys in her teens in 1972, I may not have achieved academic and career success. I give major credit to Brandeis for taking a chance on me and, even more importantly, allowing my kids to go to daycare on campus at the Castle while I attended classes. Pretty extraordinary for the times! Fast forward four decades, my two sons and I have a successful law practice in Boston, and I believe our firm holds the distinction of being the first mother/son practice in Massachusetts.

On a professional note, in early 2020, just before trials came to a screeching pandemic-caused halt, a jury in federal court in Boston acquitted our client of insider trading following a lengthy trial. It was the first insider trading acquittal in Massachusetts in over two decades, and we got to bask in our success over the past

year!

On a personal note, I have a supportive non-lawyer husband, and together we celebrated our 21st-anniversary pandemic-style, home alone. But next year, we'll party up a storm with our six grandchildren!



## Debra L Chernick, Esq.

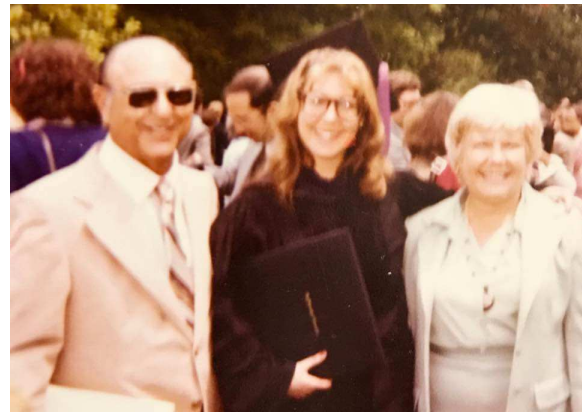
### Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

After Brandeis, I married and became a mom of two wonderful daughters, Elana and Alizah. For years now, I am remarried and as a result of entering into the world of "step mother and step children," and all those connotations, I created a new lexicon for blended families. Para-kin. My marriage brought me the joy of 3 Para-daughters in my life, Carol, Sarah and Amy. Five girls and a full time practice...who knew life could be so hectic?

For my law practice, whether it's purchasing a home, the birth of a child, divorce or death of a parent, all these events signal the need for legal help. For well over three decades, I have aided families going through their individual joys and sorrows. Being on Main Street as General Counsel to SRT has provided the support to offer services well beyond a Real Estate closing, the preparation of Wills and Powers of Attorneys, or a Family Court Issue. My office is truly a fixture of the Wakefield community and my Brandeis Bachelors of Arts diploma hangs proudly on my conference wall.



check out new terms for modern family  
Para-kin.com



Graduation.... all those years ago...

# Jonny Frank

**Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Jonny Frank '76 and Terry Haas '76  
celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary  
in January.

# Judy Gallant, MSSW, LCSW-C

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Initially, I worked in Newton with adolescents, in DC with Russian immigrants, and then attended the Columbia University School of Social Work in NY. While in NY, I met my husband, Stan Stern, who was finishing his PhD in Physics. I worked for several years with foster children and families in NY until we settled in Silver Spring, MD, where we live today.

We have two children, Josh (35) and Anna (32), who are both currently living in the DC area (!). Josh works as a contractor with the FDA in IT, Anna works in Sustainability and Green Building, with an emphasis on solar energy for the Nat'l Assoc of Home Builders. Both are wonderful and principled, idealistic and socially conscious young people.

After moving to Maryland, I worked for 15 years at Jewish Family Services in Baltimore, before joining a group practice, and finally becoming a sole proprietor of my own practice, providing psychotherapy for children, adolescents and adults. Additionally, I am the Director of Legislation

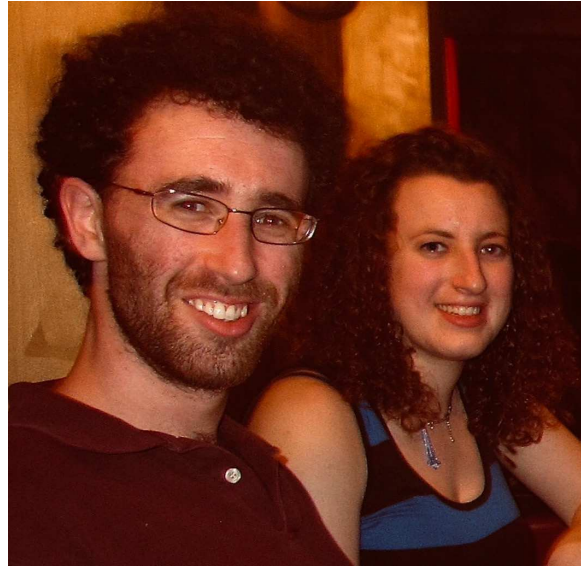
and Advocacy for the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, where I keep my eyes on local legislatures, determining strategies and advocating around proposed bills and regulations impacting the field of clinical social work and policies impacting mental health services.

For most of his career with the Federal Government, Stan worked for the FDA as a Health Physicist, evaluating medical devices and medications that emit radiation. His work involved participation with international committees addressing radiation safety, and I was happily able to accompany him on trips to Italy, Germany, Japan, and China. (Sadly, I missed the ones to Singapore, Canada, France, Ireland....) He recently retired from the FDA, and is now writing a novel, which has been his aspiration for many years.

My relationships at Brandeis contributed to my feeling more comfortable in my own skin and to realizing that I had value to offer to the world. I love providing psychotherapy and hope that I have contributed to helping

others feel more comfortable with themselves and their realizing the value they have to offer to the world. My current legislative advocacy work is now focusing on continued efforts to guarantee mental health parity, ensuring that insurance reimbursement for mental health teletherapy continues beyond the current state of emergency, and on creating interstate compacts to allow social workers to more easily work across state lines.

I hope to continue my professional work for another 3-5 years, at which point perhaps I will devote myself more seriously to painting more than once or twice a year!



Josh and Anna



Judy and Stan

# Lea La Due Goldstein

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Forty five years ago, sitting in a practise room with my violin in Slosberg Hall, I never would have imagined that I would be giving virtual violin lessons to my students using a wireless phone that had a video screen and life-like sound. That's my teaching method now that COVID has us all locked in our homes. All of my students stayed with me since the pandemic began and we meet using Facetime or Zoom. I've been a private violin teacher since the late 1970's. I still can't believe that the high school aged students I taught then are now in their 50's.

As I'm writing this, Mark and I are scheduled to get our second dose of the Moderna vaccine. If the case numbers get under control in our area, I can finally teach my students in person. Our only trips besides the grocery store and CVS have been a few day trips for skiing in New Hampshire.

Our COVID story began last March when we were visiting my mother who was trying to recover from stage-4 ovarian cancer while being cared for in a skilled nursing facility in Long Beach, California. The second day of

our visit was when everything shutdown in California followed a few days later by schools and businesses locking down in Massachusetts. We were allowed to visit in the nursing home as long as we did not mingle with the public outside of the nursing home. A few weeks later, my mother tested positive for COVID but had no symptoms beyond her fatigue and weakness from the cancer. That forced the nursing staff to isolate my mother in her room. She passed away in June, 2020 from natural causes, not officially a COVID victim, but it certainly impacted her final months.

Our next COVID adventure was cleaning out and selling my mother's home remotely from Massachusetts. We were good friends with a woman (retired Customs Inspector) living across the street from my mom's house. She connected us with a local real estate agent and they teamed up to clean out the house for us and get it sold to a young couple that will be only the third family to live in that house since it was built in late 1950's. Our friend was skilled in finding hidden valuables and creating an accurate inventory. We did Facetime



sessions to go through the contents of each room. The real estate agent served as the general contractor to bring in painters, carpenters and cleaners to freshen up the house to get it ready for sale. They packed up and shipped many boxes to us and my daughter for things we wanted to keep and found ways to donate what was still usable within the local community.

To end on a happier note, please see the attached photo of Mark and me with our daughter Carolyn and her husband Brian. They were married on a Cape Cod beach in June, 2017.



Skiing with COVID protocols

# Mark Goldstein

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

I guess my fondest memory of Brandeis is the person I met in Derooy freshman year. Lea La Due and I have been married for 44 years. In the notes for our 40th reunion, I mentioned that our daughter had just graduated from Syracuse. She stayed at Syracuse and got a Masters degree in Arts Administration, while also planning a wedding and move to Florida where her husband was starting flight training for the Navy. That gave me a chance to try something new; writing a father-of-the-bride speech. The reviews were overwhelmingly positive.

I had enough of the corporate world and retired in November, 2018 after more than 40 years as a software engineer. Last year I listed my occupation as artist in the local and national census. I've been content with letting photography fulfill my need to create something visual. Once I clear some more pressing items off the to-do list that accumulated over the last few decades, I can get back to painting. I took studio classes at Brandeis and still have all the half finished canvasses and drawing pads.

Besides the flatware (photos, paintings and drawings), I've also started making rustic furniture out of tree prunings and debris from my backyard. I attached a photo of a chair I made out of black locust fragments.

My most recent achievement was being appointed co-chair of our 45th Reunion committee along with Dov Hyman. This was completely unplanned and started at our 40th reunion with Dov giving me a bag full of 35mm negatives that were pictures taken at Brandeis for the Class of 1975 yearbook (Dov and Linda were the editors). For some reason I volunteered to scan the negatives to create a digital archive. At the time, I didn't have a film scanner so I'm not sure why I took the negatives home with me.

The bag sat in a closet in my house for 4 years. Last summer I felt guilty about taking the negatives and decided I needed to do something with them. I started reading reviews online for film scanners. Many reviewers wrote that you could get better results using a macro (close-up) lens on a modern digital camera compared to any affordable film scanners. I bought

some negative holders for various film sizes and made a rig to hold it level with my camera. I used a white background image on my computer monitor as a backlight for the film. I copied all of of Dov's negatives along with some photos I had taken at Brandeis. Dov contacted the Alumni office to see if they would share the photos online. That led to the albums that are now on Flickr. Of course no good deed goes unpunished. The people we worked with in the Alumni office were so impressed, they asked us to be in charge of the next reunion for our class. I agreed to do this if Dov would do most of the work and I could take most of the credit.



Rustic chair

## Elissa Kahn Halperin, J.D.

### **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

It doesn't seem like so many years have passed since we spent 4 years at Brandeis. It is a bit of a challenge to consider all the years that have intervened! Brandeis was foundational. We developed friendships, romantic relationships, had so many new experiences and honed interests and skills, developed critical thinking, confidence and looked toward the future. I met my husband at Brandeis, and that more than anything, shaped our futures. We have faced all of life's joys and challenges together, but we never could have imagined then what we have and are most recently living through! Like so many of our Brandeis classmates, we navigated through grad school, careers, raising a family and now enjoying retirement and grandchildren (though we long to be post-COVID). That's a mouthful and a full life!

I had a relatively fulfilling legal career, mostly working in-house at various pharmaceutical companies, counseling across business organizations and functions as well as providing legal guidance to business partners developing and implementing strategic initiatives.

Work/life balance was always an issue, with work often seeming to take more than I wanted to give. So without a doubt, my proudest accomplishment is the family we created and the kind and caring, compassionate, interesting, inquisitive, intelligent, insightful and thoughtful, supportive, creative and funny adults that our children have become. So much has changed since we were at the life stages they are at now, I find it increasingly difficult to provide guidance as they navigate through their own life challenges. We have a married daughter (37, VP Consumer Products at a global childrens media company) living in Jersey City with her husband (VP at an asset management company) and their 2 year old twin sons , a Manhattanite daughter (34) well established in her second career as a clinical nutritionist at Mt. Sinai Hospital and a son (27) and his girlfriend living and working through Covid times in Chicago, he working for a company based in Barcelona that has developed and sells a software solution to managing all aspects of business travel (growing even during Covid) and she, an occupational therapist.

We hope to be able to resume our exploration of the world. We started in retirement traveling to Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, India, Bhutan and Dubai. We explored Bolivia and Peru as well as Ecuador and Costa Rica, the Balkans in addition to many countries in eastern and western Europe. Still so much to experience!

Lastly, I became a potter at the Pot Shop at Brandeis. Still a lifelong interest that was put on hold for much of my adult life, I did re-engage with potting when I retired. We live in Sarasota, FL and spend summers in Lambertville, NJ. If any classmates are nearby (or not), reconnecting would be a joy!



Still college sweethearts!

# Dov Hyman

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Some days it seems like Brandeis memories occurred only yesterday, or maybe last week...but then we look in the mirror and find it hard to believe that 45 years have passed since graduation.

Since leaving Waltham, Linda and I have kept our sense of humor and our “joie de vivre”, and our journey has been a crazy roller coaster ride that has luckily continued to deliver more joys than sadness. We have continued to live our lives as if we are forever young at heart, and most of the time we still actually enjoy each other’s company! Laughter has been our invaluable tool for overcoming many of life’s curve balls thrown our way, and we try not to take ourselves too seriously.

Brandeis played an especially important role in shaping our lives giving us the roots to build a wonderful life together, and to maintain and enjoy the many lifelong Brandeis friendships which often became members of our extended family and with whom we have shared our respective life milestones.

Our story “post Brandeis” is that we married a year after graduation, moved to Greenwich village in NYC, put each other thru business school for our MBAs at NYU, and then we pursued non-traditional career paths. After getting his MBA, for 5 years Dov pursued a career in textile and commodity trading focused on emerging markets. When many emerging markets ran out of liquidity, Dov joined an international merchant banking and trade finance group which in time led to a specialization in a field called Industrial Partnership. This meant helping large global groups as well as various foreign government ministries facilitate the creation of true partnership arrangements that deliver substantive and sustainable economic and social benefit programs into the countries where they are deployed. Dov stayed at the merchant banking group for 19 years and then established his own advisory services group in 2004. To facilitate networking and relationships in the global industrial partnership arena, Dov also hosted close to fifty global conferences which gave us a chance to travel and continue to learn. A most wonderful treasure that Dov has

enjoyed during his career has been the extensive travel and the close friendships forged throughout the world. Four dozen trips to Sub Saharan Africa primarily focused on Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, & Uganda; Five dozen trips to Asia primarily focused on South Korea, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, & Thailand, and many trips to the Middle East working in Israel, Turkey, UAE, and Saudi Arabia, and to South America working in Peru and Colombia. This travel provided a career filled with adventures, as well as a deep appreciation, enjoyment, and respect and admiration for other cultures.

(The write up of our journey continues on Linda's page which follows)

# Linda Snitkof Hyman

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

(Continued from Dov Hyman's entry)

A priority as well as a benefit from the international travel was to visit the homes of colleagues and clients, get to know their families, and get to know their communities. As a direct result, Dov enjoys a large extended family of relationships and real friendships around the globe.

Linda stayed with finance but took some time off to raise our family and become the primary cheerleader and caregiver for our third daughter, Sherri, who is on the autistic spectrum. Linda spent many years schlepping back and forth to multiple therapists, doctors, and all sorts of professionals in order to ensure that Sherri's quality of life would be that much better. Linda eventually resumed her career in finance working at small companies close to home that would allow some flexibility.

Our four children range in age from 40 to 28, and to date we have welcomed 4 (of course beautiful) grandchildren that bring smiles and laughter into all of our lives. Our

oldest two daughters (Jenn and Becky) work together in a technology fashion company called Rent the Runway - founded by our daughter Jenn, and (as mentioned above) our third daughter Sherri who is on the autistic spectrum is the happiest she has ever been because Covid allowed her to return from her group home to live with us full time. Sherri is now working in a wonderful company called Spectrum Designs in Pleasantville New York that a group of families from our area created to provide real jobs, and more importantly a sense of accomplishment and pride for members of the special need community. We are hopeful that Spectrum will continue to provide an enriching and embracing experience for Sherri and people like Sherri for many years to come. Our youngest is our son Josh who is in his 4th year of a five-year program at Yale Med school. Josh was attracted to medicine as his vehicle for doing good and interacting and helping other people. Josh is already our family's "go to guy" when any medical question pops up, and he has been our personal "Dr. Fauci" watching our entire family "like a hawk" during Covid.



Perhaps our best treasure is the recognition that our children genuinely love and support one another.

In the coming years, particularly once Covid has abated, we hope to travel and reunite with friends from around the world and create new memories. One idea that we are thinking of is to use Dov's network of global relationships in the hotel and travel industry and create some fun and educational trips for groups of us to travel together. Let us know if you have an interest in participating!



## Douglas I Katz, MD

### **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

My 45-year journey from Brandeis has led to destinations that I had hoped for back in 1976, particularly my main destinations of family and career. My path from Brandeis was surely guided by learning, experiences and values, I largely developed at Brandeis. Even after graduation, Brandeis had continued influences on me – a Brandeis mentor changing my career path, a Brandeis student, severely injured in an accident, became part of my clinical and research work, and my son, graduating in the class of 2012, pulling me back into the Brandeis community.

My family is surely my greatest achievement. My wife Kim and I continue to live in Newton, in our empty nest, but close to our 2 children. Rachel and her husband Steve moved to Concord, MA last year. Our big recent family news was the birth in February of our 1st grandchild, Ellis Warner Way! Rachel, with a PhD in child development from Tufts, 2018, works as a research associate at Start Early, an organization that promotes services and research on early child development in impoverished communities. Steve works as

an architectural designer at LAD Architects in Boston.

Daniel BA'12 is temporarily in the Boston area with his fiancée, Julie, finishing his first year at Harvard Business School. After Brandeis he spent time at the Harvard Kennedy School as research assistant to David Gergen, then Chief of Staff at Huffpost, then head of business development for a health and wellness startup, Thrive Global, led by Arianna Huffington. Julie works in marketing, recently transitioning from a firm that promoted Broadway shows to a smaller firm promoting newer businesses.

Kim (we met in Boston after she finished her EdD) has worked in education and media, including public TV (WGBH). Some of her recent work focuses on instructional programs and bullying prevention.

I continue to have a busy, rewarding career as an academic neurologist. I subspecialized in Behavioral Neurology and Neurorehabilitation, and I've concentrated much of my clinical work, research, and publication on traumatic brain injury (TBI). I am professor of neurology at Boston University School of Medicine, and I spend

much time at a rehabilitation hospital, as medical director for brain injury rehabilitation. My research interests include TBI recovery and treatment, disorders of consciousness, and recently, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). I have also been active in professional and community organizations, recently serving as president of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Among the most rewarding experiences of my career has been the privilege of caring for and learning from many patients and their families, after catastrophic brain injuries. I also get some of my greatest satisfaction from teaching and mentoring - students, residents and fellows.

I look forward to developing my later life bucket list, evolving my career toward retirement and enjoying our growing family in the years to come.



# Elayne Kesselman

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Hi Everyone

After graduating from Brandeis, I obtained a joint degree in law and social work from Washington University in St. Louis and having been practicing family law in New York City since 1984 (yikes!) where I am a sole practitioner. My twins, Kate and Matthew, are now almost 24 years old. Kate is a member of Brandeis' class of 2019, and it was very moving for me to back on campus visiting her over the four years that she was there. (I had not been back since our graduation.) Matthew graduated from the University of Virginia, class of 2019 as well (and both graduations were on the same day - a twins' parent's worst nightmare! I was at Brandeis.) I had fond memories of being on the Women's Swim team, which has come a long way since 1972 - 1976 (where, in three years, I scored one point in a back crawl race with only three swimmers), working the Sherman Kosher food line, my junior year abroad, my classes and of course, maintaining my life long friendships. I hope everyone is well, especially in this difficult year!

Elayne Kesselman

# Bonnie Koppell

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Following graduation from Brandeis, I spent 5 years in rabbinical school, graduating in 1981 and with a Master's Degree from Temple University. I served congregations in California and North Carolina before finding a home in Arizona, where I have enjoyed the warmth for 35 Years. My husband, David Rubenstein, of blessed memory, and I were blessed by the births of 2 daughters, Jessie and Sarah. Jessie has followed in my footsteps and is a Jewish educator here in Scottsdale. Sarah got her dad's science gene and is a family medicine physician in Wisconsin. I was the rabbi of a Conservative synagogue, Temple Beth Shalom, for 18 years, and am completing 15 years at Reform Temple Chai. I had a parallel career in the US Army Reserve, as a chaplain. Deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan were career highlights, and I am a proud graduate of the US Army War College with a Master of Strategic Studies degree. I retired with the rank of Colonel after 38 years, and was the first female rabbi ever to serve in the US military. In 2016 I was blessed to marry Ron Kushner, and we are loving being Bubbe and Papa to

5 grandchildren. Brandeis feels like another lifetime ago, though I have fond memories of studying philosophy of religion with Prof. William A. Johnson, and exploring Jewish life with Rabbi Al Axelrad and the pre-Rabbi group! I continue to enjoy the warm response I receive from folks when I share them I am a graduate of Brandeis University.



Biking in Bordeaux, France with Ron  
Kushner



Sarah and Tim; Jessie and Xan- and baby  
Helena

# Leslie Kramer

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Being a transfer student, I lived off campus. My landlady and I spent many hours together, drinking instant coffee and talking about anything and everything: she was an aunt of sorts, loved the company and was both very generous and forthcoming with her opinions and questions. She'd been adopted and born Jewish, but didn't learn that till later in life; we stayed in touch long after I graduated, moved to Somerville, then to Medford where I've lived since 1977. Brandeis supported my political-social activism and commitment to justice for all: shortly after arriving in September 1973, a building was occupied, demands were made, (and met) and activism continued. Parallel to high school when my senior year entailed working with the Mayor's Council on the Environment of NYC, there, my senior year in college was an independent study: I volunteered and interned with tenant organizing groups - mostly in Somerville - and was involved in anti-racism work. Plans to "do" city planning and design affordable housing and livable cities were put aside: went hiking, birding and other nature stuff, got

married, had two children and discovered my fascination with how young people think and learn. I earned a Masters in Education and was fortunate to teach in the Cambridge (MA) Public Schools till retiring in June 2020. Busy still: involved in a progressive Jewish congregation, involved in social justice work, birding almost daily, gardening with native plants, learning more and more about insects, geology, learning languages, and hanging with my two fabulous grandchildren, who still pick up slugs, observe butterflies, moths and spiders, love figuring out concoctions for lunch and snuggling with their bubbe. More plans? Yeah: more traveling, more learning, more writing and reading.

## Beth Pearlman

### **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

I was very fortunate to be able to pursue the career I dreamt about having in college -- TV journalism. It was not a straight road, nor do I consider it over, and it's been fun and rewarding most of the way. I was so lucky to get a job early on at CBS Network News in NYC., starting in the "Specials" unit working on instant news specials. Then I transferred to the Washington DC bureau where I worked my way up to Associate Producer on the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather. Honestly a dream job. I moved to Minneapolis because my husband at the time (Mark Rotenberg) wanted to move to his hometown for a law job, and again was lucky to get a job at the CBS Owned station WCCO as lead producer of the 6 pm news, and eventually Executive Producer for long-form stories. After I had two wonderful children I made the leap from TV News to digital news when barely anyone knew what a website was for. But working on websites for TV stations around the country (from a centralized company in MN) allowed me more time with my children while still keeping my career moving forward.

When the kids went off to college I was so happy to return to TV producing, but this time it was another leap -- into 'infotainment' as a Senior Producer for Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern. After that I produced, show-ran, wrote or supervised hundreds of episodes of series for various Discovery networks and Hallmark Channel.

I could have done that forever until COVID shut down TV production and the company I worked for went on hiatus and still has not started back up. One more time I lucked out and got a temporary job with American Public Media as Digital Director, and now a Senior Radio Editor for "Marketplace" -- which airs on public radio stations near you. Again, I'm having so much fun, working with terrific colleagues and even learning new tricks and feel so fortunate about both. I am still allergic to the concept of retirement.

But the most important parts of my life are my husband (#2), Garry, who is so wonderful, generous and patient to put up with my busy working life, and my children Mathew who lives in NYC with girlfriend Antonia and dog Alfie, and Ariella (in



Boston) and her husband Tyler and their dog Mo. And that's the "nutshell" version of my life since Brandeis.



At my daughter Ariella's wedding to Tyler



Tyler & Ariella, Beth, Mathew



## Ruth Birnbaum Pernick

### **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

Life is good here in Nanuet, NY! My husband Dan and I are still living in the same house where we brought up our family. I am still teaching 5th and 6th grade Hebrew at Beth Am Temple in Pearl River, NY where Dan is the rabbi. He is starting to think about retiring in the next four years or so. I only teach four hours a week – this year all on Zoom-but that works perfectly for me. I am still singing in a Jewish chorus – though rehearsals this year also all on Zoom- and of course, no concerts.

I am happy to say that I'm still in touch with many of my Brandeis buddies. Although I needed mitral- valve repair surgery in January, this same chevrah kept me going by continually sending me love and support. Shout outs to Herbie, Barbara, Susan, David, Michael, Carolyn and Sandi '77. Now I'm better than ever!

I still enjoy swimming in my backyard pool (May-Oct) and going to Cape Cod a lot during the summer.

Our family is growing nicely. Our 3rd grandchild is due to be born mid June. He/she will hopefully be joining Meira (6) and Mikey (4). Unfortunately, that means I

will probably be too preoccupied to participate in reunion festivities as I plan to be helping my daughter, Sarah (35), out in Milwaukee. Two of our sons, Ben (34) '09 and Josh (32) '10, look like they might help to expand the family soon, Baruch HaShem! The baby, David (29) is moving back to NY after a five-year stint in LA. So happy to have half of the kids living locally!

Herbie and I are as close as ever. I get to see him pretty often as his two married daughters and his five grandchildren live not too far from me. He's doing great too! I hope all of my classmates from the class of '76 are well and enjoying good health and family!

Hope to see you all at our 50th! WHAT???????

Ruth Birnbaum Pernick '76



My daughter, Sarah, and her two children  
(my grandchildren)



Me with Meira and Mikey



My husband, Dan, and my sons Ben and  
David (missing Josh)

## Gary Sanders

### **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

After graduating from Brandeis in 1976 I headed south to Washington, D.C. Proving that you can indeed fool some of the people all of the time, I was admitted to and graduated from Georgetown U Law Center in 1979. Further proving that you can fool all of the people some of the time, I passed the D.C. bar exam then spent some time clerking for a judge, working in a corporate law department and several years with a small general practice law firm in D.C. In search of a better work/life balance, I spent the next 31 years doing government relations and advocacy work for a national group of insurance/financial advisors in suburban Virginia until I finally pulled the plug and retired at the end of 2020. Still figuring out this whole retirement thing—was ready to move on from the working life, but after 40 years of going to an office every day it will take some getting used to.

Along the way I met Angela, a kindergarten teacher who's simply the best person I've ever met in my life, and we've been married for 31 years. Son Drew came along in 1993—he's a great kid with integrity and

compassion who has his head screwed on straight, and he's currently a second-year surgery resident at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Still playing a lot of tennis, have done a good amount of scuba diving and gone on some great trips and vacations. Add in a great family, good friends and generally good health (other than some creaky knees and a mysterious absence of most of my hair) and the last 45 years have been great!

# Nancy Shpiegelman Steckler

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

I continue to live in Rockland County, NY, and am married to my husband Michael now for almost 42 years. He is a geophysicist at Columbia University. Our older child is now 30 years old, lives in Pittsburgh, and works in a medical setting. Our younger child is 23 years old and graduated college last Spring with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work and minors in ASL and Studio Art from University of Vermont. However, my life has changed dramatically since my last Brandeis yearbook entry. After our older child's illness went into remission, I was able to return to work as a licensed clinical psychologist. As a Brandeis alumna, I was helped tremendously by Dr. Crine at the Hiatt Center in returning to work after my long career break as a family caretaker. I am happy to be working both at Rockland Jewish Family Service and in a small private practice as a psychotherapist, currently via telehealth during COVID. I am also happy to be singing in two choral groups and taking ongoing voice lessons. My choirs performed live before COVID, currently have Zoom rehearsals and make virtual

recordings, and are looking forward to returning to in-person singing. By chance, Ruth Pernick from class of 1976 is also singing with one of my choral groups. My husband and I are also quite involved in our synagogue community. Since leaving Brandeis in 1976, I have continuously remained in close contact with two dear friends from Brandeis, Cindy Carter and Judy Gallant. My years at Brandeis were an important transitional time in my life, and I feel a very positive connection to Brandeis.

# Roger Tackeff

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

I would be remiss if I did not begin these few paragraphs about my journey, since graduating, if I did not acknowledge that Brandeis changed my life. My four years spent at Brandeis not only provided me with a first-class education, but it helped me figure out who I was and who I wanted to become. I owe a great deal to the University.

After graduating, I went on to Harvard Business School probably at a younger age than would have been ideal. I could not wait to get out. After business school, and perhaps too much during business school, I founded a real estate development company specializing in historic preservation, Renaissance Properties. I am still Chairman and CEO of the company as I have been for more than four decades, so much for multiple careers and mobility.

In 1987, I was incredibly fortunate to meet and marry the love of my life, Maryanne. Quite remarkably, after 33 years, she still puts up with me and we are still each other's best friend. Our oldest son, Michael,

was born in 1989 and graduated Brown University with a concurrent undergraduate and master's degree in English Literature. After finishing Law School at Vanderbilt, and clerking for a Senior Federal Judge, Mike is now a practicing attorney. Mike's wife, Samantha, is a computational biologist and completing an MD/Ph.D. at Vanderbilt, as well. Our youngest son, Dave, was born in 1992 and graduated from Hamilton College with a degree in philosophy and music theory. He lives in downtown Boston and is a junior partner in a boutique commercial real estate firm.

In addition to my time at Renaissance Properties, I have been fortunate to serve on more than a dozen civic, community and philanthropic boards. Most of my time is spent with the historic preservation community in Boston and with educational and healthcare organizations.

As most of you who knew me were aware, I had grown up in the shadow of Brandeis. Forty years later, I must confess that I have not progressed very far and have lived within approximately a fifteen-minute

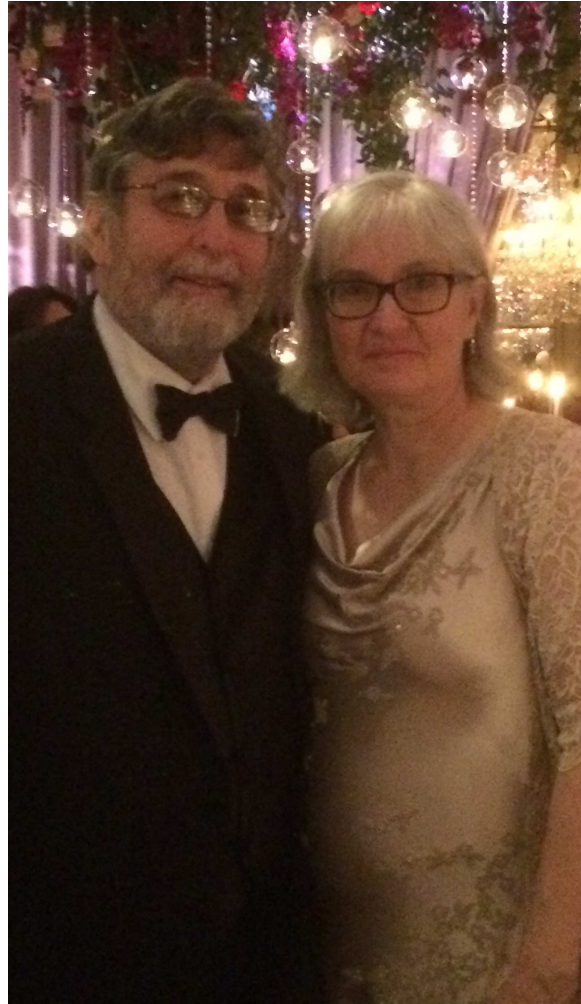
radius of Brandeis. Maryanne and my boys find it amusing that I never even made it across the Charles River since HBS is on the Boston side of the Charles.

Most importantly, I think of myself as the luckiest guy in the world and while I am still trying to figure out what chapter two will look like, I feel blessed to be surrounded by a loving wife, family, and good friends.

## Joel Teibloom

### **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

After law school, I worked in two public defender positions before joining with my law partner in a small firm. We have been working together for 30 years. In my personal life I just celebrated a 15th anniversary with Karin, a science educator. We have a total of three kids. My oldest is married and lives in Israel and Karin's two live here in Chicago after graduating college. I am beginning to think about retirement...



At a pre-pandemic wedding





All 6 of use in Israel two years ago

# Sarah Spivak Woolf and Lou Woolf

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

How do you sum up two lives together in a few words? My stock phrase is that I almost missed ever laying eyes on my husband Lou. Had we not ended up living in the mods, one atop the other - I doubt we would ever have met. Exactly how we met has long been in dispute and is a running joke, but we did meet and our love story began in our 2nd semester of our senior year at Brandeis. And forty-five happy years later, with 2 kids, daughter and son, two 3-year-old grandboys living on opposite coasts, and three more on the way (twin girls in LA, and one sex unknown in NY) - here we are.

We have both had careers that we feel have been interesting and very meaningful. I was an academic librarian for many years, eventually becoming the Library Director at my college. I worked at a small four-year college which served mostly first generation and low-income students who weren't always well prepared for college level work. It was the honor of my life professionally to work with all my students as best I could. I retired 3 years ago to become a grandmother. Lou has been on the

management side, starting in classic consumer package goods, and evolving into healthcare, in several hospital systems as COO, EVP, and eventually rising in 2009 to President & CEO of Hebrew SeniorLife, a Harvard Medical School-affiliated senior care organization providing healthcare, housing, research and teaching. Caring for over 3000 seniors on a daily basis, the last year has been particularly challenging, but extremely rewarding.

Our joy has been our small cottage on the Cape, which in this Covid year morphed into a larger house which can fit our growing family, plus a pool, hot tub and swing set, and located within walking distance of beaches. Lou is even planning an outdoor kitchen!

We had finally begun to travel more in 2016 - some European trips and a terrific family trip to Mexico. We can't wait for more. We had travelled with Brandeis to Spain, and had scheduled a Brandeis trip to Israel just before the pandemic hit.

Looking back on it all, we've had our share of injuries, illness, loss, and heartbreak, like everyone. But, especially after the year we've all had, we are so grateful to be

sharing our highlights with you and look forward to reading yours. Brandeis is always close to our hearts.

Sarah Spivak Woolf '76 & Lou Woolf '76



# Lou Yelgin

## **Tell us about your life since Brandeis...**

I retired in 2019 from my second career as a high school counselor. The work was much more rewarding than being a Fortune 100 marketing manager. My students still write to me about their accomplishments or ask advice on problems they are facing. It is gratifying to have been able to influence the lives of so many young people.

After retirement, I traveled to Cologne, Germany to be with my daughter who was completing a Fulbright scholarship as a high school English teacher. We also traveled throughout Israel and even spent some time in Beer Sheva with former Brandeisian Yamima Osher (aka Nancy Rubens). It was hot as hell there during the summer!

As a child of Holocaust survivors, I always considered it my duty to teach about the Holocaust and tell my parents' survival stories to future generations. So, I completed a fellowship in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College and have been lecturing at schools

throughout New England for the past 10 years.

With the help of the Jewish Partisans Educational Foundation, I was able to create a memorial to my parents on their Web site:

<https://www.jewishpartisancommunity.org/partisans/rita-gurwitz-yelgin/>

<https://www.jewishpartisancommunity.org/partisans/henry-yelgin/>

2020 was a tough year for my family due to the deaths of my mother-in-law (Flora Nassauer) and my brother-in-law (Isidore Faiferman) from Covid and other diseases. Still, I consider myself lucky to have been married to the same woman for 35 years and to have completed a few items on my bucket list such as:

- Meeting Elie Wiesel and having an extended Yiddish conversation with him
- Visiting Yad Vashem and the Western Wall
- Building a wooden boat and winning an award in a juried craft exhibition
- Having my work published in Fine

Woodworking magazine

- Playing competitive tennis and practicing yoga 2 – 3 times a week
- Having meaningful relationships with fellow Brandeis alums Harvey Blank, Scott Edelman, and Ron Meckler

I mourn the passing of many friends, co-workers, and family members over the last 10 years. I am grateful to be healthy and look forward to this next phase in my life when I can spend more time with family, travel, and participate in many of the hobbies I have enjoyed since graduating from Brandeis.



Scott and Eitan Edelman; Allison, Sherry, and Lou Yelgin



Harvey Blank and Lou Yelgin



Allison Yelgin