



Brandeis  
Class of 1992  
25<sup>th</sup> Reunion



## ***Special Thanks!***

On behalf of the Institutional Advancement Division,  
we would like to thank the members of the  
**Class of 1992 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee:**

**Sara Pollack Levine, Co-Chair**

**Robert S. Rose, Co-Chair**

**Lisa Fiore, Yearbook Coordinator**

**Linda Azrin**

**Robert Bayer**

**Erica Dominitz**

**Yaron Dori**

**Sherri Geller**

**David Kates**

**Scott Kessler**

**Jason Paris**

**Kathryn Gans Rothman**

**Lori Ann Smith**

**Jennifer Rogin Wallis**

**Caryn Wasserstein**

# *In Memoriam*

Let us remember those classmates  
who are no longer with us,  
but will always be a part of us.

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Joshua Greenberg

Vivien Taowei Li

James Lish

Lisa Lovett-Mann

David Sokolov

Daniel Stuzin

Steven Tanenbaum

Heidi Vincent

# Class Profiles

# Jennifer Abrams

**Name at Brandeis:** Jennifer Matzner

**Occupation:** Physician

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Andrew Abrams.

**My children's names and ages are:** Giana. 8

**Personal Update:**

Travel, read, draw/paint, garden, exercise, skiing, scuba diving

**Professional Update:**

NYCOM 1997

FACOEP

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Studying in G-zang, dinner on Waltham, rising back from Boston on the purple line singing so loud we were given our own car!!

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Dr Kalpana White. An amazing boss and roll model

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Trading! I always seemed to have to be in class when it snowed!!!



Andrew and me



Giana

# Monica Goryn Alpert

**Name at Brandeis:** Monica Goryn

**Occupation:** Realtor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Joel Alpert

**My children's names and ages are:** Abigail (17) and Emily (17)

# Matt Askin

**Name at Brandeis:** Matt Askin

**Occupation:** Doctor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Miriam Linver (also class of '92)

**My children's names and ages are:** Eve, 13 & Joey, 10

**Personal Update:**

We live in Maplewood, NJ.

**Professional Update:**

Miriam is a tenured professor at Montclair State University in the department of Family & Child Studies. Matt is a gastroenterologist in private practice in West Orange, affiliated with Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Date each other.



At our daughter's Bat Mitzvah



# Stacey Ballis

**Name at Brandeis:** Stacey Ballis

**Occupation:** Novelist

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Bill Thurmond

## **Personal Update:**

My husband and I are in the home stretch of converting our historic greystone three-flat into a single family home. The entire renovation process can be followed on my blog, The Polymath Chronicles [blog.polymathchronicles.net](http://blog.polymathchronicles.net).

## **Professional Update:**

My 10th novel for Penguin Random House, HOW TO CHANGE A LIFE will be released in August 2017, and I have two more novels coming in January and September of 2018. A cookbook that I was the recipe developer and culinary consultant on will be out in 2017 as well.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Working for Student Events, playing in the Brandeis Jazz Ensemble, performing with Boris' Kitchen, Jerry Cohen classes, traveling with a bus load of other students to the NOW march on Washington.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Olga Broumas changed everything about how and why I write. I truly believe I would not be in this career without her guidance.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I never really got involved in supporting our sports teams, looking back I think I should have made that effort.

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

More info on me can be found at [www.staceyballis.com](http://www.staceyballis.com) and at [blog.polymathchronicles.net](http://blog.polymathchronicles.net), and you can follow me on Twitter @StaceyBallis, Pinterest @StaceyBallis and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/staceyballis1](http://www.facebook.com/staceyballis1)



This is me!



Bill and I headed to a wedding.



The house...3 years of construction down, one to go!

# Benjamin Bassichis, MD

**Name at Brandeis:** Same

**Occupation:** Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Michelle Mantel Bassichis

**My children's names and ages are:** Sara 12, Max 11, Rebecca 8

**Personal Update:**

We have enjoyed being in Dallas. My family enjoys many outdoor activities and sports. If we are not traveling, the family spends time at our ranch outside of Dallas. B Squared ranch is home to Stella Bella Arabians, our family's full service Arabian horse training and breeding facility.

**Professional Update:**

Medical school

Fellowship in facial plastic surgery.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Spending time with friends

**Please share what you have done since graduation:**

I have travelled and spent time with some friends. Those experiences continue to be some of my most favorite. Spending happy times with good friends and their families continues to be an important part of my life.



# Kim Beck

**Name at Brandeis:** Kim Beck

**Occupation:** Artist / Professor

**I am:** Divorced

**Professional Update:**

RISD 1999, currently Associate Professor at Carnegie Mellon University

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Graham Campbell

Susan Lichtman

They believed in me and my ability to make art. They inspired me to consider art as something could actually pursue. They inspired me to understand that everything could exist in the practice of art making and that making art could constitute a life's work. Because of their inspiration, I not only became an artist but also a teacher. I'm forever grateful to them.

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Study literature and take a fiction writing class.



In my studio in Pittsburgh

# Matt Beckman

**Name at Brandeis:** Matt Beckman

**Occupation:** College Professor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Rebekah Teague

## **Personal Update:**

Organic gardener, hack folk guitarist, has two excellent rescue dogs, bicyclist, working on visiting all the National Parks and Monuments in the US with my wife.

## **Professional Update:**

Tenured Associate Professor of Biology at Augsburg College. I run a small lab focused on environmental toxicology and evolutionary developmental biology (Evo-Devo).

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Autumn on campus was always beautiful and the New England McIntosh apples were a high point. Chan and Elaine Fulton were my mentors and surrogate parents. John Lisman's Learning and Memore (spring 1992) was the best class I have ever take or seen.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Emeritus professor Chandler Fulton and Elaine Lai helped me find my intellectual calling. In addition, many professors deeply influenced me, including Carolyn Cohen, John Lisman, Art Wingfield, Eve Marder, Irving Epstein and Irwin Levitan.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Study Hebrew and Judaism (I'm a recovering protestant).

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

When I was applying to colleges the writer Carol Bly told me that Brandeis was a place where, "idea's count". I have taken that into my career as a professor where I try to impress upon students the importance of considering ideas from multiple vantage points. I am lucky to be doing what I always wanted to do--research and teaching. I have a wonderful wife and two dogs. If you are ever in Minneapolis I'll meet you for coffee and we can reminisce about Brandeis.



**Rebekah with our dogs Cash and Cecil, Minneapolis, MN,**



**Me at Seven Devils Mtns, Idaho, USA.**



**Rebekah and me at Scotts Bluff Nat'l Monument, NE, USA**

## Greg Bland

**Name at Brandeis:** Greg Bland

**Occupation:** Lawyer/Entrepreneur/Consultant/ CEO of ThingstodoDC.com and EmbassyExperiences.com

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Stephanie Bland

**My children's names and ages are:** Noah age 14, Sarah age 10



# Alex Blau

**Name at Brandeis:** Alex Blau

**Occupation:** Artist and Professor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Paul Collins

**My children's names and ages are:** Rose Collins 9 and Charlie Blau 8

**Personal Update:**

We love to travel and get outside.

**Professional Update:**

Rhode Island School of Design MFA in painting.

Currently teaching at Vanderbilt and Austin Peay.

Solo show coming up this September/October in Nashville at Zeitgeist Galley

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Hanging out on Dartmouth street. Rose art museum. Late nights in the art building senior year.



**Hanging with Rebecca Wertkin and crew at the Central Park Zoo**



**Rose and Charlie hanging in Washington Square Park with Jen and Pedro's little guy Julian**

# Hayden Bosworth

**Name at Brandeis:** Hayden Bosworth

**Occupation:** Professor of Medicine, Psychiatry, and Nursing

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Rebecca Essinger-Bosworth

**My children's names and ages are:** 8 and 14

## **Personal Update:**

I have fortunate that I have two great boys and a wonderful wife that I have been married to for 20 years. My boys and I do taekwondo. In terms of community activities, my wife and I are involved with our synagogue and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center. In my spare time, I run and do cross-fit

## **Professional Update:**

Received my Doctorate from Pennsylvania State University. Currently, a professor at Duke University in the Departments of Medicine, Psychiatry, and Nursing and Associate Chair of education for a newly developed department of population health science. I also am the Associate Director of the Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care at the Durham VAMC. Lastly, I am a professor in the department of Health Administration and Policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am a partner in a healthcare start up for the last four years called, Improved Patient Outcomes.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Fondest memories were usually involved sitting around the table and discussing various topics with friends. Another vivid memory is working with Margie Lachman my senior year on senior thesis. I am still in contact with her and see her annually at the Gerontological Society of America conference

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Dr. Margie Lachman, professor of psychology. I still am in touch with her, but she helped start my graduate training and research career focusing on psychosocial factors in the context of health.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Take an economic course - they seemed to hard, but more commonly I have to deal with health issues around cost and return on investment



**My 14 year old leaving for Italy with his 8th grade class**



**My two sons with our recent puppy, Belle**



**Hayden giving an invited address in Lisbon**

# Mikhal Bouganim

**Name at Brandeis:** Mikhal Stein

**Occupation:** Strategic Communications

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Ron Bouganim

**My children's names and ages are:** Eli (10), Teia (8)

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Jehuda Reinharz - His scholarship and intellect combined with a commanding authority made his seminars a bit intimidating, but he made me want to be a better student. Choosing him as my thesis advisor, however, may have been a tad masochistic. Yet what I learned in his classes helped shaped my personal and professional interests.



**Mikhal, Ron, Eli & Teia Bouganim (Mar 2017)**



# Matt Brier

**Name at Brandeis:** Matt Brier

**Occupation:** Physician - Pharmaceutical Research

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Emily Dulude ('96)

**My children's names and ages are:** Anna (9), Elisabeth (6)

**Personal Update:**

Not much spare time; we are very involved with our girls activities and love to travel when we can.

**Professional Update:**

I have been working in clinical research for the past 7 years and enjoy it very much. My company (Mapi) is hired by pharmaceutical companies to perform a variety of regulatory and commercial functions for medications in the peri- and post-marketing approval phase. Much of my work revolves around large safety studies for biologic medications used for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Great, exciting times - lots of hard studying tempered with plenty of pickup basketball and partying :)

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Professor Henry Linschitz, chemistry. Dynamic teacher, truly inspiring.

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Nothing really - great times, hard to believe 25 years have passed.

**Please share what you have done since graduation:**

Happily married for 10 years with Emily Dulude ('96). We met during medical training and dated for several years before getting married in '06. Our lives these days pretty much revolve around work, house, and mainly our 2 daughters who are busy with school, violin, tennis and dance lessons among other things. I feel grateful to be settled, healthy and generally enjoying life.



**Recent trip to Arizona**

# Robin Terry Brown

**Name at Brandeis:** Robin Terry

**Occupation:** Editor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to William Brown

**Professional Update:**

Medill School of Journalism, M.S., 1999

Senior Editor, National Geographic Books, 2013-present

# Dimitri Chernyak

**Name at Brandeis:** Dimitri Chernyak

**Occupation:** Director R&D, Johnson and Johnson Vision

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Lucy

**My children's names and ages are:** Veronika 12

## **Personal Update:**

Love traveling to Europe and other regions for work and vacations, great ski season in Tahoe this year... I collect Russian Imperial coins as hobby and to learn about history. Play ping-pong in a club to keep in shape and be competitive...

## **Professional Update:**

Member of Scientific Advisory Board for two start-up companies (Apixio and OptoQuest), multiple invited talks to international conferences on vision and ophthalmology.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Enjoyed meeting a lot of people in Brandeis, going to concerts, exhibits... Drinking coffee and playing chess in Harvard Square.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Professor Alan Mayer had excellent class in Algebraic Geometry: I ended up being the only student - so it was particularly useful and customized: a privilege for an undergrad!

Maurice Auslander was tough, but extremely effective in teaching abstract algebra: the knowledge is still with me.

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

After finishing Brandeis, I worked for a couple of years in computer graphics industry. My desire for knowledge took me to California getting PhD in Vision Science on the intersection of Neuroscience, Computer Vision and Psychology. Today I work on helping people to see better by developing effective vision correction surgical tools and techniques...



**Our laser platform  
for doing refractive  
eye surgery.**



**Being interviewed by Eye  
World Journal**



**Lucy and I**

# Alan Cohen

**Name at Brandeis:** Alan Cohen

**Occupation:** Chief Health Program Officer, JASA

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Robert Bank

**Personal Update:**

Alan lives in New York with his partner Robert Bank. Alan is on the board of Keshet, a national organization that works for full LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life, and the Plaza Jewish Community Chapel. He is a past board chair of the Joshua Venture Group, which works to cultivate the leadership and management capability of talented, passionate young social entrepreneurs.

**Professional Update:**

Alan has worked for more than 20 years in international and domestic Jewish communal service and in corporate social responsibility. Alan currently serves as the chief health program officer at the Jewish Association Serving the Aging (JASA). In the past, Alan served as the chief of staff at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC); the director of global corporate social responsibility at Henry Schein, Inc., a Fortune 500® company; as the senior director for strategic planning and organizational resources at UJA-Federation of New York; and as a program officer for JDC's Former Soviet Union Team.

# Dawn L. Cohen, MD

**Name at Brandeis:** Dawn L Cohen

**Occupation:** Family Physician

**I am:** Single

## **Personal Update:**

The beautiful Phoenix weather allows me to hike and run nearly year-round and I have completed 2 full marathons and many half-marathons since I moved here. I love to travel and in addition to going back and forth to Cleveland to visit my family I have been able to attend medical conferences in the Bahamas, Aruba, St. Maarten and Hawaii. In medical school I spent 3 weeks in Costa Rica living with local families while in a Spanish language immersion program and during residency spent a month working in a rural clinic in Belize. I am currently planning a trip to Machu Picchu next year. In my quiet time I play the piano, see the Phoenix Symphony regularly and enjoy visiting the peaceful red rock formations in Sedona, AZ.

## **Professional Update:**

After Brandeis I spent four years at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio doing Alzheimer's disease research for the neurology department. I graduated from CWRU School of Medicine in 2000 and moved to Phoenix, Arizona to do my family medicine residency at Banner Good Samaritan Hospital. After completing residency in 2003 I joined Healthy Outlook Family Medicine in central Phoenix and have been with the practice ever since. I continue to have a growing patient population and have been named a "Top Doc" in the Phoenix Magazine yearly "Top Doc" issue many times including 2017 as well as "Best Family Doctor" in the Arizona Foothills "Best Of Our Valley" issue in 2014.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

I fondly remember the beautiful campus and rolling green hills (not so fun to walk it during the winter though!), working in Sherman Cafeteria and taking the commuter rail and the T into Cambridge and Boston to hang out in Harvard Square or Faneuil Hall with my friends. I'll never forget the excitement we had when my Ziv suitemates and I found out we had scored Mod 1, with the legendary mirrored bar, for our senior year housing!

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I never once set foot in the Rose Art Museum and never walked all through The Castle inside and out. I also regret I never got to see a Red Sox game at Fenway Park and never walked the full Freedom Trail during my time at Brandeis.

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

To this day I feel so fortunate to have attended such a beautiful university which focused equally on Judaism and diversity and provided me with a superior education. My most special memories from Brandeis will always be the great times I had with my two best friends there, Pamela Morris Wilgren and Lisa Abrams Waldman. Even though we've seen very little of each other in the 25 years since graduation they will always remain the best part of my college experience!



**Me**



**Mom and I in Sedona**



**Evening in Napa**

# Derek Cohen

**Name at Brandeis:** Derek Cohen

**Occupation:** financial analyst

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Melissa

**My children's names and ages are:** Adrian 17 & Liam 14

## **Personal Update:**

Adrian and I have been writing lots of music over the last 4 years. He just released his 3rd cd of originals. We all seem to visit a different part of Europe every other year. This year will be Greece. The boys and I like to play tennis whenever we can. When Melissa isn't constantly working as a 1st grade teacher, she loves reading and doing yagalates. We seem to take turns taking Liam to his fencing classes. We also have a dumb cat named Munchie.

## **Professional Update:**

A year after graduating, I went to Northeastern University for accounting and got my MS / MBA. I later got my CPA license, which I no longer use. A few years ago, a couple songs from Adrian's EP made it onto 3 Grammy ballots.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Throwing cookies at Steve Rabitz out the window from my room overlooking Massell pond as he tried to study at the picnic table. Or, throwing them to the side of a resting flock of birds so they'd fly in his direction. Both equally fun memories. Loved my classes with Steve Whitfield and Tom Doherty - both very smart and entertaining guys.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I heard there were great views of Boston from somewhere in the Castle. Never saw that.

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

Living with a group of good friends - Fred, Andy, Pete, Steve, Scott - and still being good friends with them is priceless stuff. Bryce - he made us laugh freshman year. Constantly.

After grad school, I moved to CT, convinced Melissa to leave Chicago and live with me, got married, had a kid, moved to RI because Fairfield County traffic is not for sane people, bought a house, had another kid, and at some point I built a fortress to stop the squirrels from stealing my strawberries.

We're pretty psyched and proud that Adrian just got accepted to Berklee College of Music. As his lyricist, I'm claiming the tiniest bit of credit for that. He did the heavy lifting, but it's so much fun writing so many songs with him. It's all at AdrianCohenMusic.com. The coolest thing I've seen him do is play some Beatles songs in Paul McCartney's childhood home in Liverpool. Liam is a HS freshman, and with an essentially maxxed-out GPA, the sky's the limit with him. Fortunately, he's got my sense of humor, often to Melissa's chagrin. This summer will be our 20-year wedding anniversary. She's just the greatest. She was at Wellesley while I was at Brandeis, but we didn't meet until 3 years later.



This is the most recent picture of the 4 of us. Taken at Rockefeller Center in December '16.



This past summer, Andy came up and Sherri came down for pizza and lots of pictures.



A mini-mostly-Renfield reunion. 9 years ago already? Damn. Fun with Steve, Sherri, Fred, and Pete.

## Marc A. Cohen

**Name at Brandeis:** Marc A. Cohen

**Occupation:** Attorney

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Sharon (Drukman) Cohen '93

**My children's names and ages are:** Jordan 15; Adam 12

**Personal Update:**

We live in Newton, Massachusetts, and enjoy keeping busy with the boys' school/sports/social activities, traveling, and seeing Brandeis friends whenever possible. Sharon and I celebrated our 20th anniversary last August.

**Professional Update:**

I'm a Partner at Donovan Hatem, LLP in Boston, representing architects, engineers and design professionals in professional liability matters.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

All of it! I loved all four Brandeis years, and am grateful for meeting Sharon and making the lifelong friendships that came from my Brandeis experience.



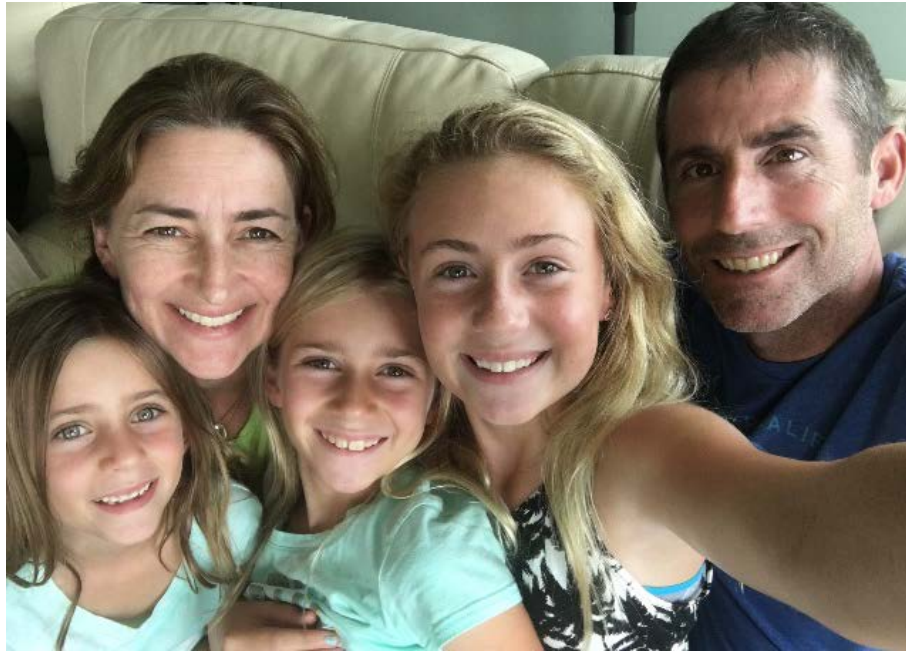
## Laurian Pokroy Dixon

**Name at Brandeis:** Laurian Pokroy

**Occupation:** Architect

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Christopher Dixon

**My children's names and ages are:** Adina 11, Eliya 9, Shoshana 7





## Tami Dowling

**Name at Brandeis:** Tami Nelson

**Occupation:** Personal Trainer/Group Fitness Instructor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Doug Dowling

**My children's names and ages are:** Devon 21, Kennedy 19, Carson 17, Keeghan 9



Beth Manes and Amanda Trigg took a road trip just to join me for a spin class.



Disney family fun!



My awesome foursome

# Karen Edelman

**Name at Brandeis:** Karen Rosenthal

**Occupation:** Director of Advancement

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Amos Edelman '92

**My children's names and ages are:** Sophie, 18 and Lily, 14

## **Personal Update:**

Amos and I have been together since Freshman year in Hassenfeld-Krivoff and were married in 1995. We have two wonderful daughters, one about to graduate high school and another is a freshman. We love to travel, recently to Greece and Mexico. We like to spend free time exploring NYC - although we've lived in Brooklyn for over 20 years we always find new neighborhoods to explore.

## **Professional Update:**

I've been working in fundraising at Brooklyn Friends School for the last 14 years and love raising funds for a school that embraces values as part of the academic learning process for students. Both of our kids have been here since they were in preschool and it's been wonderful to be so involved in their education.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

There are so many little things that I think of when I think back on my time at Brandeis. The gymnasium opened while we were there and we loved going to work out and running into the Celtics at practice time! I remember sitting in the field beside the gymnasium watching an amazing fireworks display. "Specialty night" in Usdan cafeteria was an occasion when it was Italian - fried ravioli, yum! Starting my homework in the lounge at midnight, learning about Native American poetry, Shakespeare and 20th century film. So much!

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

My most memorable class was Sociology of Disability with Professor Zola. He really helped me tap into my desire to work in a field that helps to understand how and why people do what they do - whether it's giving money to an organization they care about or purchase services from a company.

# Lisa B. Fiore

**Name at Brandeis:** Lisa Davidson

**Occupation:** Professor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Stephen Fiore

**My children's names and ages are:** Matthew (15) and Talia (13)

## **Personal Update:**

Family is doing really well! We try to travel as much as possible -- often to Italy for my work -- and the trips together are my favorite times of year, every year. Life is busy with the kids' activities and work. So spare time, while limited, is precious. I still love reading and creating art, and we attend a lot of theater in Boston. That's still my favorite thing to do whenever I have the chance.

## **Professional Update:**

I'm a full Professor of Education at Lesley University. I teach undergraduate and graduate students, in courses that deal with early childhood education, developmental psychology, and interdisciplinary coursework focused on the Image of the Child and Human Development through the Lens of American Musical Theater. I'm also the director of the Child Homelessness Initiative at Lesley -- we've created a certificate in Child Homelessness Studies, and are working to raise awareness about children and families in transition. I'm serving as the Chairperson of the Belmont School Committee, which is a tremendous learning experience and a huge time commitment. This year I was honored to receive the Higher Education Teacher of the Year award from the Massachusetts Art Education Association, as well as one of the Lesley University Impact awards.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

So many fun memories of hanging out with Lori, Caren, Lea, and the Deroy boys. Freshman year was as great as I ever could've hoped. I remember the Chinese food guy who'd walk the halls late at night, many dances, nights at Chomondeley's (Chumley's) for ice cream and music (Three Little Maids from School are We), the gross pizza that we somehow ate often and then they changed it to a different pizza.

Orientation weeks were always fun. Steve Levine was the best AIDE group leader ever!

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

John Bush Jones was my advisor and an amazing professor. He reinforced my love of the theater in several theater courses, with humor, wit, and snappy remarks (and I'm using his most recent text in a course I'm teaching in fall 2017!). Larry Fuchs taught a History of the Family course that I think about often, and we kept a journal throughout the course in which I collected newspaper articles, reflections, and other writing that allowed me to combine different disciplinary perspectives in one learning experience. Philip Brian Harper was the professor that blew my mind -- I took every class with him that I could! He taught me about privilege, challenging assumptions and bias, and analysis of images and texts in a compelling class every single class meeting. I've been in touch with him a few times over the years, and hope to meet up with him over drinks one day in NYC.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I don't think there was anything that I didn't get to try and do at Brandeis. That was one of my favorite things about Brandeis!

If I could do it over again, maybe I'd try for the crew team...but the practices were so early! I've participated in Dragon Boat races the past two years in Boston, and it fills that empty space.

## Lisa B. Fiore

### **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

Since Brandeis graduation, I've been glad to keep in touch with a few friends, and even though life gets crazy with family and work, and time seems to tight to talk as often as I'd like, whenever we do get together it's like no time has passed at all! I'm grateful to Brandeis for providing the foundation for such special friendships!



**Dragon Boat races 2016 -- Drumming on the Charles River for Lesley University team**



**Horseback ride w/ the kiddos in Hawaii -- Summer 2016**



**Visiting London in Summer 2015**

# Dan Fishman

**Name at Brandeis:** Dan Fishman

**Occupation:** Pharmaceutical Consultant

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Elizabeth Fishman

**My children's names and ages are:** Maya 7, Sydney 5

# Andrew Frank

**Name at Brandeis:** Andrew Frank

**Occupation:** Professor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Lisa Tendrich Frank

**My children's names and ages are:** Daniel (13); Noah (10); Shayna (10)

**Personal Update:**

I spend most of time with my kids who are all involved in acting and various other activities. My wife and I have taken up running and have completed several half marathons.

**Professional Update:**

I went to the University of Florida for my MA and PhD and have been a professor at several universities since then. In 2004 I joined the faculty at Florida State University where I hold the Allen Morris Professorship in history. I have published nine books, with my most recent one being *Before the Pioneers: Indians, Settlers, Slaves, and the Founding of Miami* (2017).

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

I had several professors who made impacts on my life but if I had to choose I'd single out David Hackett Fischer. He was remarkably committed to his students, mandating weekly individual tutorials that were both intellectually exciting and downright intimidating. He was so encouraging and had a way to see where you were going before you actually knew it yourself. It was an awesome experience and I am still in awe of the time and attention he gave to his undergrads. It is an example that I try to live up to.

## William Friedman

**Name at Brandeis:** William Friedman

**Occupation:** Attorney

**I am:** Single

**Professional Update:**

I am a senior attorney in the New York office of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP



# Steve Garran

**Name at Brandeis:** Steve Garran

**Occupation:** CPA

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Rhonda Garran

**My children's names and ages are:** Nathan 21, Allison 17, Meghan 15

## **Personal Update:**

I am extremely active in many local organizations and volunteer regularly. I am the Committee Chairman of Boy Scout Troop 83, Treasurer of Cub Scout Troop 83, Membership Chairman of the Provincetown Lions Club, Treasurer of the Orleans Firebirds of the Cape Cod Baseball League, Treasurer of the Masonic Building Association of Provincetown, Finance Chairman of the Eastham United Methodist Church and on the board of the Cape Cod Baseball League and Sight Loss Services, Inc. I participate annually in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and the last two years was the number 8 and number 11 fundraiser in New England out of 500,000 participants.

## **Professional Update:**

I went back to graduate school after Brandeis and earned an MBA and Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting and became a Certified Public Accountant. I started my own CPA firm in my home town in 2004.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

My fondest memories of Brandeis will always be the people. My friends and professors were all key in turning me into the person I am today.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Professor David Hackett Fischer made an incredible impression on me from the first day I met him in person. I took 6 or 7 classes with him and was always amazed at his giant intellect.



Me in my office



Me with my kids in 2002



Me with my kids in 2015



# Sherri Geller

**Name at Brandeis:** Sherri Geller

**Occupation:** College Counselor

**I am:** Single

## **Personal Update:**

I live in downtown Boston (Kenmore Square) and love it. While I don't have a spouse or children keeping me busy, I don't feel like I have a lot of "spare time" as in addition to my "day job" and professional association volunteer work, I have had a part-time job working for the Boston Celtics at all of their home games. (I've done a few things on the "game night staff" but currently work as a court-side statistician and in the press room.) I continue to enjoy traveling and have been to all 50 states (and several countries); in 2014 booked a random trip to Oklahoma (!) to finish off the list.

My biggest "family" news is that my mother passed away on August 29th. I'm still really grieving...but have been so lucky to be supported and surrounded by so many friends (including many from Brandeis!) during these difficult months. My brother (Brandeis '95) lives in California and my father spends time locally and in Florida.

And how 'bout those Patriots...?!?!

## **Professional Update:**

When we get to reunion, I will have just finished my term as President of the New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC), a professional association for college admissions and high school college/guidance/school counselors. Starting in September, I will be the Coordinator of the Affiliates Presidents Council for the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and will serve on the NACAC Board of Directors for the second time. In 2013, I was so honored to become one of the youngest people to receive NEACAC's highest honor, the Harry R. Carroll Award for Distinguished Service.

I've been working at Gann Academy, a Jewish high school in Waltham (near Bentley) for seven years. Those of you who volunteered in the Brandeis Admissions Office with me may remember Dave Tabachnik '71, one of the admissions officers; he and I worked at Brandeis together for several years and are now Co-directors of College Counseling at Gann.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

- Volunteering in Admissions -- especially senior year with my co-coordinators Jeff Mittler, Jeff Shulman, Barbra Sherak, and Traci Portnoff (who is now my dentist!)
- My "freshman friends" -- especially Leah Friedman, Derek Cohen, Mark Raizin, Jodi Lazar, Andrew Frank, Steve Rabitz, Peter Hartog, Scott Davis, Jayne (Jayme) Bigelsen...
- Anything taught by Jeffrey Abramson. After my first class with him, I was HOOKED and took two more.
- Bambinos! And Iguana Cantina.
- Renfield, Shapiro, Ziv, and Mod 14!
- Studying abroad in Spain.
- The Castle. Always loved the Castle. And Chumley's! Ice cream!!
- The Ferris Wheel at Bronstein Weekend. (I don't even like Ferris wheels but it was so cool to have one on Chapel's Field.)
- The new gym. And seeing LARRY BIRD shoot free throws for hours in it!
- Speaking at graduation. Still can't believe that happened...I even got to meet with Abe Sachar to discuss my speech. What an honor! Hey, thanks for picking me!

# Sherri Geller

## Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Steve Whitfield. He not only pushed me to think "harder" and differently than I thought before, but we had several conversations about grad school and he helped me think about NOT going to law school. (My parents were thrilled, as you can imagine, as they'd already paid for an LSAT course and thought I had a plan. I think, in retrospect, I was kind of caught up in the Brandeis "hype" around law school, but getting a Masters in Public Relations was a better move for me.) Since I've worked at Brandeis and other locations near Waltham, we've stayed in touch; as you may have heard he just retired from Brandeis this winter.

## What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?

- Take Jerry Cohen's Sports in American Culture (or whatever it was called) class.
- Meet my husband. :)
- I wish I knew what a basketball team manager was and does; if that job were ever open for the men's or women's teams, I know now that I would have loved to have done it.

## Please share what you have done since graduation:

My full-time job is about helping high school students find the "right" college for them, and so I think about -- and talk about -- Brandeis all the time. SO many of you reading this yearbook have found your way into stories that I tell my students, whether its about our years on-campus or a more recent story about a cool job that you have, grad school you went to, or something else. I have kept in touch with a lot of my Brandeis friends, and the wonder of Facebook has made that even easier. Truly Brandeis was the "right" school for me, and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to attend Brandeis and meet so many of you. Our school, and our alumni, continue to inspire me!



Still having fun with Leah (Friedman) Bernstein 25 years later!



As seen on TV (working a recent Celtics game)



With my co-worker (Dave Tabachnik '71) dressed as Brandeis Tour Guides for Purim 2017!

# Miriam Greenburg, LICSW

**Name at Brandeis:** Miriam Greenburg

**Occupation:** Social Worker

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Dean Ricciardi

**Personal Update:**

I reside in Medford with husband and our retired racing greyhound, Charlie.

**Professional Update:**

After many years in the social work field, I obtained an MSW in 2013 from Salem State. I currently work for two programs that have the goal of preventing people from being evicted from their homes.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Not much beat the cheap Ben and Jerry's ice cream at Cholmondeley's, especially considering the meal plan food. I still have a Cholmondeley's mug, which is now old enough to have graduated from Brandeis. After Hours always had a memorable moment either in being brilliant or painful.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Denise Loweneuguth was never my professor, but she was my sewing trainer for four years. I owe all of my sewing skills to her. While I don't currently make my living sewing, I do enjoy creating art using that medium. It helps maintain my sanity.

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I wish I had sat in on more classes that interested me. It was great to learn things with no stress of papers or tests.

# Robin Hammer

**Name at Brandeis:** Robin Goldstein

**Occupation:** Mom, Film Educator

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Max

**My children's names and ages are:** Isabelle 16, Annelise 12, Phineas 9

**Personal Update:**

Living in Pittsburgh with busy family life of lots of musical and sports practices and performances. Next year we are doing a 1 year sabbatical in the UAE.

**Professional Update:**

I work part-time for a film company showing films related to tolerance and human rights to 6-12th grade, and I am on\I've been on a few nonprofit boards. I have an MBA.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

So many! Definitely lots of adventures with my freshman roommate, who is STILL my BFF almost 30 years (gulp) later. I think one of the best things for me about Brandeis was the proximity to Boston and the big city education that offered.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Carl Belz was the only professor who reached out to me at Brandeis, and I truly treasured him as a mentor and friend. I was saddened to hear of his passing. I also have fond memories of Emily Dudek, James Duffy and Jonathan Sarna. I can't even remember my advisor's name. He didn't really advise me.

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Figure out life? Still working on that one...

**Please share what you have done since graduation:**

After graduation, I worked in New York and DC for six years for a few environmental nonprofits as a research associate\manager, got married to my high school boyfriend, moved to Cleveland for graduate school, and 15 years ago, moved to Pittsburgh.

# Lloyd Kass

**Name at Brandeis:** Lloyd Kass

**Occupation:** Policy and Business Development Executive for Clean Energy Services Company

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Jennifer Haakmat

**My children's names and ages are:** Willa (10)

# Scott Kessler

**Name at Brandeis:** Scott Kessler

**Occupation:** Equity Analyst

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Michele Reiss

**My children's names and ages are:** Emma - 9 years Ethan - 21 months

## Eve Rudin Kleinman

**Name at Brandeis:** Eve Rudin

**Occupation:** Rabbi

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Rabbi Elliott Kleinman

**My children's names and ages are:** Emma Weiner, 16

**Personal Update:**

I live in Tarrytown NY and mostly work and facilitate my daughter Emma's theater and singing schedule!

I have two step-children

# Ling Ling Koh

**Name at Brandeis:** Ling Ling Koh

**Occupation:** Retired

**I am:** Divorced

**Personal Update:**

I decided to have an early retirement in Sep 2016, after spending 10 years and 9 months with GIC Pte Ltd as internal auditor. I can now spend more time on strength training. I can also travel as and when I like. I'm an avid cyclist and bring my road bicycle overseas for tour when possible.





# Rachel Silverman Korman

**Name at Brandeis:** Rachel Korman

**Occupation:** Teacher

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Charles Korman

**My children's names and ages are:** Naomi Elkins (18) Seth Elkins (16)

**Personal Update:**

What spare time? Mostly, I do things for my family such as support my children in their activities and take care of our household. I enjoy working out and reading (when I have the time). I also work at my children's overnight camp.

**Professional Update:**

I went to Temple University for a Master's Degree in educational psychology (1994). Since then I have mostly been teaching elementary school and raising my family.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

It feels so long ago. I really enjoyed student teaching in a third grade classroom in a school in Newton, during my senior year.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

I'm not sure that any of the professor's truly made a lasting impression. However, I do, however, remember really enjoying going to Professor Sarna's class and taking a course in architecture (but I cannot remember the name of the professor!)

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I'm not sure there was anything.

**Please share what you have done since graduation:**

I'm most proud of my family. I enjoy supporting my own children's endeavors. Both of my kids are incredibly musical and enjoy the performing arts. I also like to help out and be at their performances.

# Beth Manes Lax

**Name at Brandeis:** Beth Manes

**Occupation:** Lawyer

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Robert Lax

**My children's names and ages are:** Max Kasler (19), Sara Kasler (16), Samantha Lax (stepdaughter - 25), Eric Lax (stepson - 20)

## **Personal Update:**

Since graduation, I've discovered my inner outdoorsy person. I love to bike and hike. I've even gotten my SCUBA certification. I still do plenty of community service (you can take the girl out of Brandeis ...). To hit the highlights: I am on the Board of Directors of Don't Hide It Flaunt It!, which is an organization dedicated to celebrating people's differences. I'm also on the Board of Trustees for Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey, which is an organization dedicated to helping families care of adults with special needs. My family raises puppies for The Seeing Eye. Finally, I am on the Fencing Parents Association board for my daughter's high school fencing team.

## **Professional Update:**

I went to the University of Michigan Law School. I currently have my own practice, Manes & Weinberg, Special Needs Lawyers. We do special education advocacy, guardianship and estate planning for families with special needs.

I am on the executive committee for the Solo-Small Firms section of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

I was named to the 2017 Super Lawyers list for Schools and Education Law, and more recently named to the "Best Lawyers for Families" list for New Jersey Family magazine.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Sadly, my most vivid Brandeis memories are in the library!

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I wish I had majored in Classical Studies. I loved every archaeology class I took and wish I had focused more.



With my husband, Rob, after the NJ Gran Fondo ride a few years ago.



With my son, Max, last year when he was on Year Course in Israel.



Hiking with my daughter, Sara, in VT.

# Jodi Lazar Hall

**Name at Brandeis:** Jodi Lazar

**Occupation:** marketing/PR/partnerships

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Doug Hall

**My children's names and ages are:** Dillon, 9 and Lucie, 6

## **Personal Update:**

After Brandeis, I lived in Israel, Paris, and California. I wish I could have stayed in Paris! Unfortunately my assignment there was only a year, but luckily, back in CA, I discovered mountain biking and San Francisco, and decided to stay out west. My husband is from Washington State, so after growing up on the East Coast, I now spend time every year in the northwest, often in an RV! We hike and bike as much as possible, on weekends and on all vacations. We also ski as much as we can. Most weekends you'll find us outdoors, except when we're in the hockey rink watching my son play hockey. I am a proud hockey/soccer/baseball/tennis mom! My kids go to two different schools--my daughter goes to a Spanish immersion school, all classes in Spanish! Much of our time is spent with our school communities.

## **Professional Update:**

During my junior year abroad, I heard about the Monterey Institute of International Studies and knew I wanted to go there. After an international MBA, I got a job that brought me back to Paris for another year, managing executive conferences and tradeshows. Then I discovered high-tech and the excitement of working for fast-moving companies with great corporate cultures. After 9/11, I grew disillusioned and took some time off to travel and ended up working for a company helping international students and professionals with visas to the US. But my heart was in cycling, so I eventually started my own marketing/PR company and worked many great bike races like the Tour of Georgia, Tour of CA, Race Across America, and Sea Otter Classic. After time off to raise my two young kids, I am back in high-tech at a startup called Cloudera, sort of right back where I left off, working on partnership programs.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Favorite professor: Professor Whitfield!

Favorite class: Conspiracy Theory

Memories: Usdan, "the Rotten Eggs", Mod 2, scorpion bowls, Pat's Diner, Head of the Charles, Chinese Food, Vermont ski trip, Harvard Square, MIT Delta Tau Delta, the green room ... not necessarily in that order!

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Live in the Castle

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

I feel really lucky to have lived abroad for several years, and had many opportunities to travel, for work and for great adventures. I do wish I could have lived longer in Europe. I often wonder where I'd be today if I'd stayed in Boston after college. I am happy to say that I truly lived it up before having kids... but nothing before them compares to my pride and happiness when they are around! Along with my husband, they are truly my greatest gift and accomplishment. I am not sure what all my future holds, but it will definitely include a lot of hockey sticks, bikes and sunscreen!

## Jodi Lazar Hall



My family in Florida, December 2015



Family bike trip in Bend, Oregon, August 2016

# Michael Lesser

**Name at Brandeis:** Michael Lesser

**Occupation:** Lawyer

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Sarah

**My children's names and ages are:** Beatrice (13), Truman (10)

**Personal Update:**

Spending as much time as possible with the two best kids in the world as they enjoy basketball, softball, track, drums, Minecraft, reading, chess, fishing, two dogs, friends and school.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Two years fencing saber for the inimitable Coach Shipman taught me the value of hard work and dedication, and, more than anything else, how a great leader gets the most out his team. Emotive and taciturn, ebullient and restrained, demanding and supportive, Coach Shipman was a great motivator, mentor, and teacher. Thanks, Coach - you are the best!

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

I was fortunate enough to take philosophy courses and seminars taught by three of the best teachers I've ever had: David Wong, Owen Flanagan, and Jeffrey Abramson. My study of moral and political philosophy at Brandeis has never stopped enriching my daily life. The scholarly rigor, thoughtfulness, and empathy with which these professors taught also imparted wisdom far beyond the subject matter itself.

**Please share what you have done since graduation:**

The best thing about Brandeis was the encouragement to be yourself. When people ask me about my experience at Brandeis, what I tell them is that you can get out of Brandeis whatever you want to put into Brandeis. I have always felt that the school and campus supported each student equally, whatever one's personality, interests, or background. I think that's a rare thing on many college and university campuses. It is that environment that is most conducive to learning and making lasting friendships.

# Darian Schiff Levin

**Name at Brandeis:** Darian Schiff

**Occupation:** Middle School Math Teacher

**I am:** Married/Partnered to David Levin '92

**My children's names and ages are:** Antalya, 15 and Arden, 13

# Victoria Libin

**Name at Brandeis:** Victoria Libin

**Occupation:** Attorney

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Paul Jorgensen

**Personal Update:**

When not working, I spend time with my husband and three terriers in San Francisco. We take full advantage of the wonderful produce and local foods and cook with friends. I also spend my free time playing lots of tennis.

**Professional Update:**

Received a Masters in Art History from Harvard in 1994 then a J.D. from U.C. Hastings in 1997. Have spent my professional career working in house for technology and entertainment companies. Currently, I am the Legal Director for Accenture Digital where I have a blast learning about cutting edge new technologies and helping my company commercialize them while managing legal risks.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Spending time with Sunny Singh, Sabrina Kaleta, Joel Green, and Alex Yanishevsky at the Castle. Also hanging out in the Back Bay with Bhaskar Banerjee and Julie Solomon.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Prof. Richard Parmentier. He taught me how to think critically and to understand the bias that comes from viewing others through your cultural view point.

# Craig Lipset

**Name at Brandeis:** Craig Lipset

**Occupation:** clinical researcher

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Shani Lipset

**My children's names and ages are:** Rebecca (11) and Ethan (14)

## **Personal Update:**

The kids were born when we were living in Wellesley MA, but we have called Basking Ridge NJ our home for over ten years. By the time of the reunion, our kids will each be finishing their current schools and moving up to high school and middle school. Ethan keeps us busy traveling with hockey; Rebecca mixes up music (piano, guitar, french horn) with dancing and basketball. Annie focuses her time on chewing bones and belly rubs (did I mention she's the dog?).

Shani works part-time as a Family Physician at Summit Medical Group. Outside of work, Craig is on the board for the local synagogue (Congregation B'nai Israel) and a few other non-profits (Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research, MedStar Health Research Institute).

We try to travel somewhere new each year -- 2017 will include some national parks. But every summer the family heads back to their favorite familiar spot -- Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard -- for ice cream, beaches, and more ice cream.

## **Professional Update:**

I get new medicines developed faster to reach patients in need. Today I lead Clinical Innovation for Global Product Development at Pfizer, introducing better and smarter ways to develop new medicines. I split my time between internal research times at Pfizer, with the other half working externally -- with entrepreneurs, technology companies, patient advocacy groups, regulators, and collaborations with other biopharmaceutical companies.

I complement my internal focus at Pfizer by working at a rare disease foundation (Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research), a large health system (MedStar Health Research Institute), and a health tech incubator (Blueprint Health).

My work has given me the opportunity to lead groups from Stanford to the White House, from NIH to the National Academy of Science. I appreciate some of the recognition -- from AlleyWatch Who's Who in eHealth to PharmaVoice 100 Most Inspiring in Life Sciences.

It is an honor to fill unmet medical needs.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Between all of the classes and activities, my fondest memories are the downtimes in the lounges with friends. Those times together created lifetime bonds. Whether as Freshmen in Ford Hall through to the Rosenthal or the Mods, those times with friends are what first come to mind when I think back on Brandeis.

Well, that and a campus-wide parking pass. Being Director of BEMCo for two years did have at least ONE perk!

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I took one computer class -- the history of computers -- we never touched a computer but only talked about them! I should have learned more coding (but fortunately there are plenty of online resources out there today).



## Craig Lipset

### Please share what you have done since graduation:

My work brings to many cities, and it is always a treat to find old Brandeis friends wherever I land. But Boston remains the HUB -- and I know whenever I touchdown there I will be able to fill a dinner table with great "old" friends. (Sometimes I find an excuse for business in Cambridge just to get back!)



With the family at a concert



BBQ with 5 'Deis alum families



Back in '91 with the guys

# Amy S. Merget

**Name at Brandeis:** Amy S. Merget

**Occupation:** Quality Improvement Specialist

# Jennifer Neuman

**Name at Brandeis:** Jen Neuman

**Occupation:** Sr. Branding Specialist

**I am:** Single

**My children's names and ages are:** None

**Personal Update:**

After living in Brookline for 20+ years, I made the move to the suburbs of Newton for a little more space. I travel to FL a few times a year to visit my grandmother and in my spare time enjoy playing tennis and spending time with my close friends.

**Professional Update:**

I found a job in media advertising after graduating from Brandeis and have always held positions in sales and marketing. I currently work for Axis Promotions as a Sr. Branding Specialist. I help my clients find tangible items that convey their brand message to end users. Each day is different and I'm always learning something new.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

I was so lucky to participate as a member of the softball and volleyball teams at Brandeis. Many of my memories revolve around my teammates, travelling to compete against UAA teams and winning softball championships.

I also have great memories of my suitemates/housemates from junior and senior years. We had a lot of laughs living together and I remain close to most of them today.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

I enjoyed my classes with Professor Whitfield and Jerry Cohen.

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I wish I had taken advantage of studying abroad.

**Please share what you have done since graduation:**

The thing that I love most is that most of my close friends are all people that I met at Brandeis. I love sitting at the dinner table and laughing about silly things we did in college.

# Sharon Nirenberg

**Name at Brandeis:** Sharon Steinberg

**Occupation:** LDT/C

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Bruce

**My children's names and ages are:** Hailey-18. Marni-13

**Professional Update:**

Masters in Learning Disabilities from William Paterson University

# Deborah Notis

**Name at Brandeis:** Deborah Raider

**Occupation:** small business owner - [gamechangernow.com](http://gamechangernow.com)

**I am:** Married/Partnered to James Notis, class of 1991

**My children's names and ages are:** Joseph 17, Aaron 15, Daniel 12, Jonathan 10

**Professional Update:**

In 2012, I built my company - gamechangernow, LLC. gamechanger is a free referral service connecting Westchester and Connecticut families to highly qualified, competitively priced academic, sports, music, and art instructors.

We currently serve over 250 families in the area, and we work with over 75 talented and knowledgeable instructors. In addition to making sure that children have the opportunity for one-on-one instruction, we send tutors and coaches to local schools to run after school programs, and we have birthday party specialists.

This company was formed to help families simplify their lives and connect their kids to confidence.

I would be thrilled to connect with fellow alumni interested in our services or interested in becoming a gamechanger tutor, coach, or specialists.

Please check us out at [gamechangernow.com](http://gamechangernow.com)

# Jason Paris

**Name at Brandeis:** Jason Paris

**Occupation:** Attorney

**I am:** Divorced

**My children's names and ages are:** Jordan age 12, Ilana age 9

## **Personal Update:**

I live in Scarsdale, New York with my son Jordan and my daughter Ilana. They go to Trails End Camp and during the summer I like to travel and play golf. During the other 10 months of the year I look forward to the summer. And during that time I also coach my kids in basketball, baseball and softball.

## **Professional Update:**

After Brandeis I went to Fordham Law School and graduated in 1995. Over the last 20+ years I have practiced law and have been fortunate enough to sit on the Executive Board of Directors of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, as well as be inducted as a lifetime member of the Million Dollar and Multimillion Dollar Advocates Forums.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Freshman year - Scorpion Bowling in Boston, only to find out (pre-Uber, pre-cell phones and basically pre-ATMs) that the T stops running to Brandeis at night.

Also Freshman year - learning the hard way that vodka that comes in plastic bottles is not for doing shots. Not a fond memory, but a very vivid one and a life lesson that has served me well over the years.

How ridiculous it was that the Waltham PD would break up an off-campus party and then just follow everyone as they left that party to go to the next, and then break up THAT party, and so on...

Junior year - renting a school bus to bring people from campus to our house party. The aforementioned cops came to break up the party and we successfully convinced them to let it continue as long as we kept it down and no one else came. And then the bus pulled up with another load of students - party OVER.

As you might imagine from the above, not too many class/professor memories...

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Weren't classes optional?

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Throw a touchdown pass to Ron "Hands of Stone" West. I mean, c'mon! Guy is wide open in the corner of the end zone, no one within 10 yards, the pass is soft and high and hits him right in the hands and he drops it. HE DROPS IT! Who does that? FOR GOODNESS SAKE

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

Since graduation I have worked as a personal injury trial lawyer representing those injured in accidents and have my own law firm in midtown manhattan. Visit [www.parischaikin.com](http://www.parischaikin.com) for information.

Both of my kids love visiting Brandeis and both say they want to go to Brandeis. Which means that if you know anyone who needs a lawyer please visit [www.parischaikin.com](http://www.parischaikin.com)

Some of my friends from Brandeis are still my closest friends now, and they will be celebrating with me at my son's Bar Mitzvah this December. And Ron West doesn't DJ parties anymore so I have to hire someone for real. So, if you have a minute, visit [www.parischaikin.com](http://www.parischaikin.com)

## Jennifer (Barstow) Pickett

**Name at Brandeis:** Jennifer Barstow

**Occupation:** Reference Librarian

**I am:** Married/Partnered to David Pickett

**My children's names and ages are:** Matthew, 6 and Megan, 4

**Professional Update:**

Simmons Graduate school of Library and Information Sciences MLIS, 2002

**Please share what you have done since graduation:**

I'm just living my life down here on Cape Cod. With work and the kids I don't really make it over the bridge much these days, but I would welcome hearing from any of the old Ridgewood crowd. I still dream often of my time at Brandeis - the people, the buildings, the music. So many great people that I will never forget. I'm glad to see some of you on Facebook looking good and doing great things. I'm not much of a 'social media' person myself but if any of you guys make it down to the cape, I would love to see you.

# Erika Levine Pintoff

**Name at Brandeis:** Erika Levine

**Occupation:** attorney

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Scott Pintoff

**My children's names and ages are:** Jonah - 10

**Personal Update:**

I live and work in NYC. My son will be in 5th grade. As a family we spend time taking advantage of living in NYC - the arts, theater, Central Park, bike paths along the Hudson River and more. We also enjoy escaping NYC and spending time in Columbia County, NY and the Berkshires.

**Professional Update:**

I have been in-house counsel for over 20 years, specializing in real estate matters.



**Me in 2017**



# Tammy Pollack

**Name at Brandeis:** Tammy Friedman

**Occupation:** Human Resources Professional

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Michael Pollack

**My children's names and ages are:** Matthew 13, Jessica 11

## **Personal Update:**

Both of my kids play ice hockey....need I say more? It takes up most of our free time traveling with both them, but they love it, and now I do too.

Matthew became a Bar-Mitzvah last year, and Jessica is currently preparing for hers next year.

My husband Michael (class of '90) opened up his own law firm 2 1/2 years ago after practicing for more than 20 years. His office is in Hartford CT and he is a personal injury attorney.

We like to travel when we can, and are planning a cruise this summer.

## **Professional Update:**

After almost 20 years working at the same company, the company was sold and I was thrown into the job market. I successfully landed a wonderful job in my field of Human Resources at EMCOR Services New England Mechanical in Vernon CT. It's been almost 2 1/2 years now, and it has been a wonderful career move.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

So many memories! I met my husband at Brandeis, and I still speak to several of my roommates almost weekly, so I have a lot of great memories. But the ones that stand out: commuter line to Porter Square, Border Café, Screw Your Roommate, Bronstein Weekend, Ziv, Usdan mailboxes, the Mexican line and falafel, Rabb steps, scorpion bowls, Waltham CVS, Dartmouth Street, East quad, and Airbands! The list could go on forever!

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I never studied abroad.



Matthew's Bar-Mitzvah 2016

# Sara Pollak Levine

**Name at Brandeis:** Sara Pollak

**Occupation:** College Professor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Steve Levine

**My children's names and ages are:** Eli (17), Ariel (14)

## **Personal Update:**

This is a busy year for us as we are college-hunting with our son. We are very proud that he got hired as a counselor this summer at Camp Tel Noar but that means we are cramming a lot of visits into a short period of time. Other weekends involve hours of driving and watching our daughter compete in regional dance competitions. Steve and I have the summers to ourselves as the kids have both been at sleep-away camp for several years. Last year we got to take a tour of Israel (my 2nd trip and Steve's 1st). It was absolutely amazing and we can't wait to go back again. Otherwise, when we have breaks from work, we spend our summers eating out in Boston, trying to get to some cultural events, and squeezing in some quick trips when we can.

## **Professional Update:**

After Brandeis I went directly into a graduate program at UMass Amherst. There I completed my PhD in Social and Personality Psychology. I worked at Hampshire College for 2 years and then moved on to a tenure-track job at Fitchburg State University. I have been at Fitchburg for 17 years where I am now a full Professor of Psychological Science. Almost 2 years ago I was elected Chair of my department.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

- my roommates <3
- freshman orientation (as a freshman & as a volunteer--which is how I met my future husband)
- Hillel Theater productions (Oliver, Bye Bye Birdie, Pajama Game)
- one act plays
- grad (I'm one of the few people who liked it there)
- Dartmouth Street
- Sammy & AEPi parties
- coffee houses at Chumley's
- LA law wine and cheese parties
- Bronstein weekends
- Medieval Manor

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Teresa Amabile had the most influence over my life. She welcomed me onto her research team after I took her Statistics course and was instrumental in helping me complete my Senior Thesis. It was definitely my work with her that earned me places into multiple graduate programs. She has since told me how proud she was to have me earn my PhD in Social Psychology. She had overseen many students but I was the first to get a degree in her own field of study. Teri is now on the faculty at Harvard Business School.

## Sara Pollak Levine



The Levine Family: Me, Steve, Eli and Ariel



The Brandeis Family: Me, Ayelet, Amy, Sue and Lisa

Brandeis Extended Family :)

# Leila Porter

**Name at Brandeis:** Leila Porter

**Occupation:** Professor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Sean Farrell

**My children's names and ages are:** Liam Farrell age 6

**Personal Update:**

We help coach Liam's soccer team, read books, and travel as much as possible!

**Professional Update:**

I got my PhD in 2000 from Stony Brook University. I am now a Professor of Anthropology at Northern Illinois University (NIU), where I teach classes in Biological Anthropology and study the behavior and ecology of monkeys in South America. My husband Sean Farrell is a Professor of History at NIU, specializing in Irish History in the 19th century.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

I enjoyed playing on the Brandeis Women's soccer team, sledding down the hill behind the library on cafeteria trays, heading into Boston for some dancing and late night coffee, and most of all hanging out with all my friends.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

My biology professors encouraged me to find internships to allow me to pursue my interest in animal behavior. The internship at the New England Primate Center I had during my senior year, led me to pursue a career in primatology. As a result, I have been studying monkeys in the Bolivian tropics for the last 20 years!



Sean Farrell, Liam Farrell and Leila Porter

# Ted Portnay

**Name at Brandeis:** Ted Portnay

**Occupation:** Interventional Cardiologist

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Debbie

**My children's names and ages are:** Rachel (16), Emma (13), Samantha (10)

**Professional Update:**

Tufts Medical School - MD

NYU - Internal Medicine

Yale - Cardiology

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Intro to Modern Architecture

Playing pick up basketball in the new gym and passing members of the Boston Celtics in the hall ways

# Wendy Ross

**Name at Brandeis:** Wendy Sagett

**Occupation:** Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Michael Ross

**My children's names and ages are:** Benjamin Ross 14 and Jacob Ross 12

## **Personal Update:**

I met Michael Ross at Mt Sinai School of Medicine and we married in 1997. We have two sons together, Ben (14), and Jacob (12). We moved from the Boston area to Philadelphia in 2006. In my spare time, I enjoy hanging out with my family and extended family, also based near Philadelphia. I enjoy creating programming to promote inclusion for families affected by autism. Some of my work has been featured on CNN, People Magazine, Sports Illustrated, and 60 Minutes Sports. You can see a clip here:

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2015/02/06/cnnheroes-ross-2014-tribute-excerpt.cnn>

In 2014, my husband was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. In addition to raising funding for my autism projects, our family raises money for his doctors located at Penn and Mt Sinai. We also travel to support his athletic efforts as he recently did a world championship off road triathlon in Maui while in treatment for his cancer.

## **Professional Update:**

Humanities and Medicine Program at Mt Sinai School of Medicine

Pediatrics Residency at Yale New Haven Hospital

Fellowship in Developmental Pediatrics at Harvard/Childrens Hospital Boston

Director, Center for Pediatric Development and

Founder of Autism Inclusion Resources

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Sociology classes and living near Boston.

Hanging out with friends.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Live in the castle.



Wendy and Michael Ross

# Deborah Schneider-Ardren

**Occupation:** Educator / Paralega

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Pete Ardren

**My children's names and ages are:** Danielle, 13 and Tali, 10

## **Personal Update:**

My family lives in Mountain View, CA, where we have been for the past 12 years. Before that, I spent time in New York City and London, England where my oldest daughter was born. Both of my children are both dual UK citizens and we travel back to England frequently to visit family and friends. My oldest will be starting high school in the fall and my youngest will be in the 6th grade. We love traveling and hanging out together, swimming, boxing, biking and watching musicals. My husband is a software engineer, and runs his own business supporting small business owners with their computer needs.

## **Professional Update:**

Graduate School: MA in Modern Jewish Studies, Jewish Theological Seminary, 1997

Professional certifications: Paralegal Certification, 2014

NASM Personal Training Certified; Notary Public

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

I played an orphan in "Oliver." I had always wanted to do musical theater, but never had the confidence to audition. The Brandeis / Hillel production included anyone who auditioned. I even had a small solo in a song!

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Sylvia Fuks Fried, Yiddish language. She taught through poetry and music. I have a love of language now that I never thought possible before taking her class. It inspired me to pursue an MA in Eastern European literature and history.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I tried out for the softball team my Freshman year, but didn't join the team because I chose to take a Film studies class instead. I wish I had done both.

# Lenna Silberman Scott

**Name at Brandeis:** Lenna Silberman

**Occupation:** Executive Director

**I am:** Divorced

**My children's names and ages are:** Lauren 18, Andrew 15

**Personal Update:**

I'm living in suburban Chicago with my two kids. My oldest is about to graduate from high school, but hasn't decided which college to attend in the fall. In my spare time I sing with a choir, BG Singers. We were featured on the Today show last year and in 2011 won \$10,000 for charity in a choir contest.

**Professional Update:**

I am working as the executive director of a community counseling agency. I am also working on a MA in counseling.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

My favorite memory is when Marvin Hamlisch came to JBJ's American Musical Theatre Class.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

John Bush Jones truly influenced my life when he suggested that I pursue journalism. This led me to Northwestern and a MS in journalism. After a great career and a local Emmy, I shifted careers but the experiences I gained were priceless.



# Jill Shinderman

**Name at Brandeis:** Jill Fischer

**Occupation:** Writer/Executive Producer

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Mark Shinderman

**My children's names and ages are:** Hope age 13

## **Personal Update:**

We love to travel as a family, go for hikes in the Santa Monica mountains, and take our puppy for long walks by the beach. Some of our favorite local community organizations to support are Students Run LA, Westside Neighborhood School, KI, TEBH, and various arts and education organizations.

## **Professional Update:**

Jill Shinderman is the principal of Barclay Square Media, a creative development shop and producer of children's media properties. With more than 20 years of expertise, Jill continues to fuse research-based education practice with creating programs and products for the youth market. Jill is an Executive Producer and writer for the new PBS KIDS series Splash and Bubbles. She has worked on projects for The Walt Disney Company, Scholastic Inc, Nickelodeon, The Jim Henson Company, 9 Story Media, Portfolio Entertainment, Los Angeles Repertory Company, Academy for New Musical Theatre, LAUSD, and The Music Center Education Division. Jill is currently in development on a variety of television animation projects, a live action 1/2 hour comedy series, a kids and family reality show, and a myriad of children's books.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Loved going in to Boston on the train, having dinner in the North End and coming back to campus with a pint of "dough to go" from the Chipyard in Faneuil Hall. Most of the time, we devoured the dough on the train and it never actually made it back to campus.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Professor Lawrence Fuchs inspired me to think beyond common threads about family, community, education and constructs of diverse cultures and peoples throughout the world. These themes are always present in the back of my mind as I continue to work passionately on projects both in my professional life and philanthropic life.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Okay, I confess, I never took a Jerry Cohen class! They never seemed to work out with my schedule.

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

I am so grateful for the friendships and experiences that I was able to have at Brandeis. To this day my best and dearest friends are those that I met during my time at Brandeis. Our families and kids are growing up together, important parts of each others life, sharing good times and tough times. And even through we all live in different cities in different parts of the country, and might not get to see each other often, we always pick up like we did when we were back in college.

## Jill Shinderman



"A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words"



# Andrew Shure

**Name at Brandeis:** Andrew Shure

**Occupation:** Attorney

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Debra (Rosenthal) Shure

**My children's names are:** Ben and Alison

# Amy (Rubman) Siegel

**Name at Brandeis:** Amy Rubman

**Occupation:** internist

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Justin

**My children's names and ages are:** Josh, 15

**Personal Update:**

We moved from Vermont to Austin in 2014 and I now work half-time at Austin Regional Clinic.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Emily Dudek (chemistry) writing on the blackboard with her right hand while she erased with her left hand

# Nina Simon

**Name at Brandeis:** Nina Simon

**Occupation:** Pediatrician

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Ronald

**My children's names and ages are:** Maya 13 Josie 11

**Personal Update:**

Love keeping busy with family and our 5 year old Havanese.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Besides all these premed classes I enjoyed my musical theater and film studies classes.

Off Campus fun finding great ice cream spots around the area

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I never took any American Studies classes which I heard everybody loved



25 year reunion cup...obtained 25 years ago while at Brandeis



2016 Lake George fun with family



2016 Family in Northport NY

## **Lori Ann and Adam Smith**

**Name at Brandeis:** Lori Ann Goldsmith and Adam Smith

**Occupation:** In home Baker, previously clinical trial coordinator UPenn for gerontology medications

# Joe Spraragen

**Name at Brandeis:** Joe Spraragen

**Occupation:** Lawyer

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Pam Scheininger

**My children's names and ages are:** Bruria (15); Tamar (14); Shalom (11); Ezra (6)

**Personal Update:**

I am active in my shul, where I've served as gabbai for the past 10 years (something I first did at Brandeis). I really don't have much free time but if I did, I'd be sure to do something fun.

**Professional Update:**

NYU School of Law ('96)

I have been practicing customs and international trade law for over 20 years. Currently, I am with the law firm Grunfeld Desiderio in New York.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Nearly all of my memories of Brandeis are good ones: Hillel, learning things, the gym, unlimited food at Sherman, volunteering at a nursing home (and driving the campus van there), Mod parties, studying deep in the library, and just being on campus.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Prof. Marvin Fox, 'zl, was a mentor in synthesizing modern scholarship and fealty to tradition.

Instructor, Bruria Nevo HaCohen, was a role model of kindness and of how to treat others with respect.

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Slide down the hill next to the library in the snow on a tray from Sherman. Oh wait, I think I did that - but I used someone else's tray from Usdan (I would never take a tray from the cafeteria....).



# Olga Stambler

**Name at Brandeis:** Olga Stambler

**Occupation:** Attorney - Family Law

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Mel Jones

**My children's names and ages are:** Maxwell and Alexandra

**Professional Update:**

Partner - Hurst, Robin & Kay, LLC



# Francine A Stracuzzi- Warren

**Name at Brandeis:** Francine A Stracuzzi

**Occupation:** Retired

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Michael R Warren, Sr

**My children's names and ages are:** Kathryn Nickerson McKay 36; Michael R Warren, Jr 34; Joseph M Nickerson 28- at time of passing

## **Personal Update:**

Family- celebrating 20 of marriage; and our granddaughter Zoey McKay's 3rd birthday. Retired after a career with the Internal Revenue Service, still researching & hope to publish one day! Active member of the Global Quilting world. We travel to quilt shows, shops & motorcycle shops around the eastern seaboard- hoping to see the whole country once my husband retires. Chapter President of the CNY Binky Patrol, - we make quilts, blankets & toys for children in need: <https://binkypatrol.org/index.cfm?>

## **Professional Update:**

Graduated Northeastern with a Masters in History, began work on PhD in Native American Studies-still hope to finish- stopped while Michael was getting his BA & then MA as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the kids got their degrees. Started and completed a career with the Internal Revenue Service working at Andover, MA, Cross Point, MA,& then heading back to NYS to work in local offices.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

My fondest memory of Brandeis - everything!!! I came to the University as a newly divorced mother with 2 kids. I was welcomed into the community as a student, mother & worker- as I took the position of front end manager in the bookstore. The diversity I experienced was an education unto itself! It was just what I need to grow emotionally & educationally. Favorite Professors were mostly in the AMST & HST departments. Meeting people from all over the world in such a community setting, the diverse conversations- which while heated at times, allowed individuals to express opinions, while taking nothing away from others!!! And, being a bit silly, learning what a great bagel could taste like!

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Jacob Cohen- Jerry- you opened not only my eyes, but my daughter's as she was always welcomed into the classroom. Joyce Antler- loved not only studying with you, reading your books held great interest for me, ditto Stephen Whitfield! And I loved the challenge offered to me by David Hackett Fischer- he encouraged me to keep digging to find the answers, even when I was told the documents didn't exist anymore- I found they did! They all helped me hone a keen eye for the details and for that I will be forever grateful! Don't get me wrong- I had Professors who lacked the ability to inspire or seem to think I had no place at the university- that said what I learned, what I experienced as a part of the BASP- Brandeis Adult Scholar Program far out weighed any negatives I experienced.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Spend a night living in the Castle! As an adult with children I didn't get to live on campus- it would have been a fun thing to do, and I know my daughter also wished she could do so. I have pictures from the Summer of 96 showing my granddaughter's excitement at seeing the Castle!

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

After graduating w/ a dual BA in American Studies and History from Brandeis, I continued to work at the bookstore while getting my MA in History from Northeastern. I spent a great summer working on

## Francine A Stracuzzi- Warren

Newberry Street at the HISTGEN, genealogy always leads to great stories! I then headed to the Lehigh valley of Pennsylvania to work on my PhD at Lehigh University. Not finding the great fit I had in the Boston area I moved back to NH for a few years, working in public schools. A year into a new marriage complete with a wonderful step-son, we moved to Cortland, NY where my husband was working on his BA, I continued work on my PhD with some one professors in the fields of history & anthropology, while substitute teaching! By then we had 3 kids all getting ready for college, we found ourselves back in NH and I found a path way outside my desired field, I took the position offered by the IRS. I had a degree in Accounting from years prior & while not my greatest love, it provided a great income, a chance to help others, as no I wasn't one of the agents who audited or examined returns, my job was to help others understand the laws & help them get the best refund under the law. Amazing how many people what to ask you tax questions while you're shopping! After 15 years with the government I retired due to health concerns, so after years of working hard I'm now quilting for charity, helping children & teens who can't help themselves. A love born of losing one son at a week old more than 35 years ago and of losing another to serious addiction issues in 2013. And I'm researching again! Fun to Come!



**Zoey exploring Brandeis!**



**More on campus exploration!**

# Sydney Suskind

**Name at Brandeis:** Sydney Suskind

**Occupation:** Entertainment - Writer/Director/Producer

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Yonah

**My children's names and ages are:** Noa & Emmett

## Professional Update:

From television writer to creative development executive, Sydney has worn many hats in entertainment including running Lauren Graham's Warner Bros television deal and Vice President of Development for KeyPix Productions, ('Air Bud' and 'Air Buddies' franchises). Sydney, along with her writing partner Susan Cohen, sold a series to Comedy Central UK (that will probably never see the light of day) and has developed projects with Ben Stiller's Red Hour Productions and Legendary Television.

This past year, she and Susan co-created, directed and Executive Produced an original web series "How To Beat Your Sister-in-Law (at everything)" - a twisted (semi) fictionalized web comedy that reminds us that if family doesn't kill you... give it time. Special Guest Stars include Suzy Nakamura (ABC's Dr. Ken) and Phil LaMarr (MadTV & VEEP). Please check it out at [HowToBeatYourSisterinLaw.com](http://HowToBeatYourSisterinLaw.com) and feel free to share it with anyone who has a family.



The Fam!



How To Beat Your Sister-in-Law Web Series Poster

# Larissa Symbouras

**Name at Brandeis:** Larissa Pelc

**Occupation:** Paralegal, Face Painter, and Beekeeper

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Eric Symbouras

## **Personal Update:**

My husband and I are beekeepers, which takes up a good portion of our "spare time." In addition, I make soap and candles, and am a knitter, weaver, and spinster; and we tap our maples for syrup. We have two big dogs, two cats, five guinea pigs, two angora rabbits, and six chickens. I'm also on my town's Environmental Commission, in a spinning and weaving guild, and in a face painting guild. In addition to his day job, my husband's a woodworker, so the one thing we don't do much of is sleep!

## **Professional Update:**

I graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1995, clerked in the NJ Tax Court, and spent about 16 years practicing law. Since 2012, I've been working as a paralegal, which is much better hours, and leaves more time for other things. I've been a professional face painter and henna artist for over 13 years, and became a beekeeper in 2014. My goal is to phase out of office life entirely, expand the apiary, and be 100% beekeeper/face painter within the next few years.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

It was a wonderful time overall, but the friends I made at Brandeis are still today my chosen family. My husband marvels at our relationships, and how strong they are after all these years.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Professors Tibbets and Campbell in the fine arts department are still always in the back of my head. Turns out Professor Tibbets was right when he wanted me to drop my Politics major and keep my Art major instead! Who knew?

Then again, my politics professors - all of them - prepared me for law school more than I could know at the time.

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

Last year, my husband and I started a charity, We Bee-lieve, to teach kids about bees and beekeeping, with a focus in inner city areas in NJ. So far, it's a NJ domestic nonprofit, and we're working on our 501(c)(3) status. We've got five hives on the roof of what used to be a factory in Passaic, NJ, and we've been doing bee talks for groups throughout the year.

## Larissa Symbouras



Our 5-Year Anniversary in 2014



Yes, I'm Really a Beekeeper!



Wedding, March 28, 2009

# David I. Tanenbaum

**Name at Brandeis:** same

**Occupation:** Lawyer

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Allison

**My children's names and ages are:** Ariela (4 yrs.) and Asher (18 mos.)

## **Personal Update:**

Nowadays the bulk of my free time is spent hanging out with the kids and trying to get through my wife's (endless) to-do lists around the house. With what's left I try to keep up with current events and business news and the usual stuff like movies, etc. I wish I had something more exciting to add but life has been pretty conventional of late. It seems like an exciting event these days is finding a new and interesting podcast for the morning train ride.

## **Professional Update:**

After Brandeis I went straight through to law school and then immediately into private practice, which I've never left. Up until fairly recently the entirety of my career had been spent at the law firm Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP here in NYC, first as an associate and then as a partner. In August 2014 I joined Akerman LLP, also here in NYC, where I've been ever since. I practice in the M&A and private equity areas, mainly on technology and new media-related deals. The work is challenging and I've made many close friends along the way, but it can also be exhausting and often takes me away from my family to a frustrating degree.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

I have such a kaleidoscope of memories it's really hard to settle on any one of them. On the academic side, one thing that stands out to me -- and this isn't a single memory but more of an emotion -- is how enthusiastic I got and how much I came to enjoy learning about my subject (history). It was a great feeling and I miss it -- I can't say I've ever felt similarly about the law.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Stephen Schuker, Paul Jankowski, Eugene Black -- these were very polished, worldly guys (at least they seemed so to me at the time) and I really looked up to them.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

There are a lot of things I wish I had done, or at least done differently, but I guess that's life. Of course now that I'm put on the spot no one thing is leaping to mind.

## **Please share what you have done since graduation:**

Amid the craziness of work and kids to say I miss the simplicity of sitting in the basement of the Goldfarb library reading history books would be a vast understatement. Indeed, as each year goes by I grow more and more nostalgic and sentimental about my days at Brandeis. I stopped at the campus a few years ago on my way back from a vacation and it was actually much more emotional for me than I ever would have thought. Anyway, I would love to hear from any classmates!

**David I. Tanenbaum**



**With the family at Narragansett, August 2016**

# Ellen Rappaport Tanowitz

**Name at Brandeis:** Ellen Rappaport

**Occupation:** Lawyer

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Chuck Tanowitz

**My children's names and ages are:** Alex 18, Ben 15, and Shoshi 13

## **Personal Update:**

Five years seem to have flown by for us, with each year going faster than the year before. By the time reunion comes around, Alex will be a high school graduate and on his way to a gap year before starting college. Ben finishes up his 9th grade year and this year picked up nordic skiing. Shoshi just had her bat mitzvah and is an avid rock climber.

We have been able to do some traveling, including England, and Bermuda and, closer to home, Maine, Virginia, and Canada.

In the little spare time I have, I have taken up knitting which is quite enjoyable and relaxing. As of July 1, I will be president of my synagogue. I love to go to the theater and we subscribe to a speaker series which has been wonderful. Due to Alex's involvement, we have become involved in the robotics team, mentoring high school students.

## **Professional Update:**

I have had my own law firm for 15 years. This past September, I moved the office to Newton Centre which has been wonderful. I have 2 employees - one associate and a paralegal and together we make a great team. We handle all sorts of litigation disputes, but many of them involve property. I represent landlords, tenants, homeowners and contractors in a wide range of disputes. Most of my clients are people, not companies, so the work involves not just lawyering, but counseling as well.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Brandeis still holds a place near and dear to my heart. I have so many fond and vivid memories of my time in the Waltham Group and for Orientation. With my son looking at colleges all last year, I had particular memories of being a tour guide while at Brandeis.

Of course, the best times and my fondest memories are the time I spent with friends. It is really hard to believe that 25 years have passed.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Professor Fuchs and Professor Whitfield were two of my favorites. I cannot think of specific examples, but I took multiple classes with each of them and truly enjoyed their classes.



## Amanda S. Trigg

**Name at Brandeis:** Amanda Trigg

**Occupation:** Attorney

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Robert Trawick

**My children's names and ages are:** Owen, 15.

**Professional Update:**

Emory Law, JD 1994; Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and International Academy of Family Lawyers; certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Matrimonial Law attorney. Frequent speaker and author of continuing legal education programs.



Divorce lawyer by day.



At the 2017 Women's March in Washington DC  
with Beth Manes '92



Family 5k at midnight on New Years' Eve

# Jennifer Rogin Wallis

**Name at Brandeis:** Jennifer Rogin

**Occupation:** Non-Profit Development Professional

**I am:** Divorced

**My children's names and ages are:** Eva, 13 and Noah, 9

## **Personal Update:**

I live with my two kids and a pet bunny in southern Connecticut - about 1 1/2 hours from where I grew up in West Hartford. My life is full and busy, like any working mom. My kid's interests include Little League, basketball, drama club and baking. My interests include going to movies, Jewish genealogy, estate sales, live music and spending time with my boyfriend who shares the same interests.

## **Professional Update:**

After my Brandeis graduation, I moved to Washington, DC and worked at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum as a founding staff member. I then moved to NYC where I earned an MSSW degree in Social Administration and Planning from Columbia University. Since then, I have worked in a variety of non-profits planning events and raising money. I recently left Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale after working there for 6 years, and now work at my local Jewish Federation - Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

I loved going in to Boston during the weekend.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Professor Jonathan Sarna was a great influence.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Since I transferred to Brandeis as a junior, I never went to the Screw Your Roommate dance which seemed like a lot of fun.



# Sheri Weinstein

**Name at Brandeis:** Sheri Weinstein

**Occupation:** English professor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Adam Friedland

**My children's names and ages are:** Daliah, 13 and Scarlett, 9

## **Personal Update:**

I live in South Orange, NJ with my husband, our two daughters, and our dachshund, Chloe. Daliah, our older daughter, had her bat mitzvah in March, and we were excited to have a large contingent of close Brandeis friends, their partners and children, able to attend. I don't think I have spare time, but I asked my 8-year-old daughter what I do in my spare time and she said, "Facebook, reading, some cooking and you take me to Broadway." So there you have it. I want to travel a lot more and to a lot of places. I welcome hearing from Brandeis friends.

## **Professional Update:**

I'm an Associate Professor of English at a CUNY in Brooklyn. I went to graduate school at McGill University (MA) and SUNY Buffalo (PhD), and have been with CUNY since finishing my degree in 2000--a long time! My current research is for my book in progress about graphic women--I am looking at how women are represented in media and visual culture during cultural crises over the last century.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Wow, so many. Sledding on cafeteria trays next to the library, getting completely turned on to Russian Literature by Prof. Robin Feuer Miller, poetry and writing seminars with Frank Bidart and Olga Brooms changing my life, and friends, friends, friends. And I miss the Cambridge bookstores, which are mostly no longer there, anyway.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

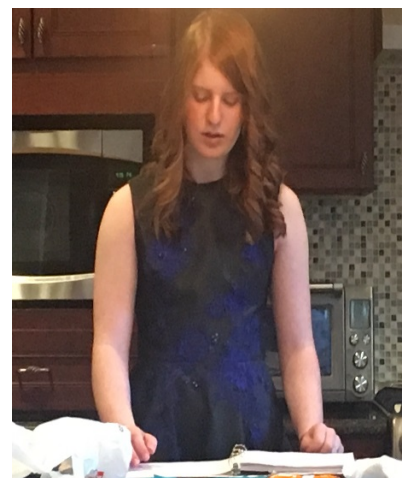
I regret not have taken what was then called European Cultural Studies courses and history courses beyond the requirement.



Me, selfie, 2017.



Scarlett, age 8, after our mother-daughter road-trip together to Waltham, where I got to show her Brandeis.



Daliah, 12, practicing for Bat Mitzvah.

# Kim Weiss

**Name at Brandeis:** Kim Winer

**Occupation:** Dentist

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Ron Weiss

**My children's names and ages are:** Abigail-19, Ethan-16, Zachary-11

**Personal Update:**

After dating for 3 years at Brandeis, Ron and I married in 1996 as I was finishing dental school. We lived in NJ for several years but moved back to Newton, MA and have been here since 2009. We are both busy with our careers and raising 3 children. We ski as much we can in the long Boston winters and take advantage of the beach during the summer. I also love reading and working out at the gym.

**Professional Update:**

I graduated dental school in 1996 from Ohio State. I did my residency at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Mass General Hospital. After my residency, I worked at Mass General as a hospital dentist and now I am in a group practice.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

I loved playing volleyball my freshman year. My real fondest memories from Brandeis come from Renfield hall my freshman year. I loved everyone on my floor and the floor above us. I just loved hanging out with everyone and having fun. For me, it was the people that made Brandeis so special.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

My freshman chemistry professor Dr. Emily Dudek was amazing and really paved the path for my career. My organic chem professor, Dr. Stevenson made the subject fascinating and easy to learn. I also loved my anthropology professor Dr. Parmentier.

**What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

I wish that I had traveled abroad my Junior year.

**Please share what you have done since graduation:**

Ron Weiss and I met at a mod party in September of 1989 (our freshman year). We dated the rest of the way through Brandeis. We then made it through 4 years of a long distance relationship while I was at Ohio State and he at MIT for grad school. We married in 1996 and now have 3 children. Ron and I love to ski together and travel when time allows.

## Kim Weiss



Rosenthal East Suite 210, Sophomore Year '89-'90



Freshman year with Lisa (Goldman) Tiger, Shari (Low) Mayerson, and Kim (Winer) Weiss



Brandeis friends attending our wedding in 1996, in Columbus, Ohio

# Ron Weiss

**Name at Brandeis:** Ron Weiss

**Occupation:** Professor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Kim Weiss

**My children's names and ages are:** Abigail-19, Ethan-16, Zachary-11

**Personal Update:**

Married 1996 to Kim Winer. Three kids. Still enjoy surfing, windsurfing, snowboarding.

**Professional Update:**

Professor at MIT in Biological Engineering. My research is in synthetic biology, with a focus on cancer therapy and organ/tissue generation.

**My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

Fondest memories are Phi Psi and Rugby.

**Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

Professor James Miller -- I worked with him at Brandeis and he really exposed me to research in academia.



Phi Psi party for getting chartered, 1991



Kim (Winer) Weiss and I



Matt Brier, Jay Kim, Jon Silverstein, and me performing community service

# Ron West

**Name at Brandeis:** Ron West

**Occupation:** talent manager

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Lilach West

**My children's names and ages are:** Nicole (20), Stephanie (19), Joshua (14), Noah (7), Olivia (6), Micah (1)

## **Personal Update:**

I am managing partner of a Beverly Hills-based talent and literary management and production company. That, and the still-hard-to-believe reality that I'm the father of six children, take up a lion's share of my life. My infrequent downtime is often spent reading or playing semi-professional tournament poker.

## **My Fondest/Most Vivid Memories of Brandeis:**

I attended my 20-year reunion in 2012. My wife and I landed at Logan and jumped in a rental car heading west to Waltham. Amazingly, since I travel quite often, it was the first time I had been in Boston since college. I hadn't gotten more than a few miles when I was overwhelmed by a sense of being home again. I told my wife, "I could move here tomorrow" which, while true, simply isn't going to happen, given my career and family commitments. But that's how strongly I reacted to being back. I grew up on Long Island and Los Angeles has been my home for 25 years. But Boston is where my heart is.

## **Which professor(s) influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?**

I wasn't much of a student, so I'm sure the professors who made the greatest impact on me wouldn't have seen that coming. But there are three who come to mind: Stephen Whitfield and Thomas Doherty were wonderful. Whitfield taught me that humanity and objectivity aren't mutually exclusive in an academic. And, given that I work in Hollywood 25 years later, I'm still benefiting from everything Doherty shared about classic cinema. The name of the third professor, sadly, is lost to me. He taught my favorite class (one of the few I attended every week, sadly), a psychohistory of Beethoven. Maynard's Solomon's biography, which I reread recently, was the main text. He was amazing and I'm sad I can't recall his name.

## **What is one thing you always wanted to do at Brandeis but never did?**

Catch a touchdown pass from Jason Paris

# Mark Yarm

**Name at Brandeis:** Mark Yarm

**Occupation:** freelance writer/editor

**I am:** Married/Partnered to Bonnie Ralston

**My children's names and ages are:**

**Professional Update:**

I am currently a freelance writer/editor, with bylines at Wired, the New York Times, Rolling Stone, the Wall Street Journal Magazine, Details, and many other outlets. I'm a former senior editor at Blender magazine and the author of Everybody Loves Our Town: An Oral History of Grunge (Crown Archetype, 2011), a Time magazine book of the year. Say hi on Twitter: @markyarm.



Photo by Matthew Salacuse