

# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: Liz

Maiden Name: Rosenkrantz

Last Name: Sokolov

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Dan

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 2

What are their names and ages? Avi (5) and Aaron (1)

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **MA in Literature**

At which institution? **Georgetown University**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) I created a course for high school seniors entitled "Emily and Friends," which alternates a study of Emily Dickinson's poetry and letters with a study of Dickinson's favorite authors: Shakespeare, Emily Bronte, George Eliot, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Dickinson's poetry of loss and love speaks to the themes of her favorite authors, opening up new avenues of interpretation and appreciation. The course culminates with students writing their own one-woman show about a facet of Dickinson's life using her words, scholarly research, and the students' own voice as they imagine Dickinson's thoughts. The Emily Dickinson International Society published an essay of mine in their December 2011 Bulletin where I describe my methods of teaching Dickinson to high school students.

In my spare time, I...

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

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Please find a copy of my article on teaching Emily Dickinson, attached, below:

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First Name: Rachel

Maiden Name: Grandberg

Last Name: Weinstein

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Shad Weinstein

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 2

What are their names and ages? Isabella, 4 Sarah, 1. Our daughters have the same birthday, 3 years apart!

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **Masters in Social Work**

At which institution? **Boston University**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) Shad and I are excited to share that we've added to our family in the last few years. Isabella Leah was born on April 21, 2008 and exactly three years later, Sarah Esther was born. They love sharing their birthday with each other.

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) I have been the Director of Missions at Combined Jewish Philanthropies for almost 10 years. I have had many wonderful opportunities traveling all over the world and meeting so many amazing people and colleagues.

In my spare time, I... Enjoy spending time with family and friends. I am so lucky to have such a wonderful and supportive family.

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: Arin

Maiden Name:

Last Name: Prisant

Are you married? No

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name?

Do you have children?

No

If so, how many children do you have?

What are their names and ages?

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **Masters Degree in the History of Art**

At which institution? **Columbia University**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.)

In my spare time, I... President and Founder, Hannah Banana Foundation

[www.HannahBananaFoundation.org](http://www.HannahBananaFoundation.org)

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

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## 15th Reunion

First Name: Jaimie

Maiden Name: Rothman

Last Name: Slosberg

Are you married? yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Darren Slosberg

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? two

What are their names and ages? Madison, age 6 Ayden, age 3

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **JD**

At which institution? **Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.)

In my spare time, I...

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: Pegah

Maiden Name: Hendizadeh

Last Name: Schiffman

Are you married? Not anymore!

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name?

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 2

What are their names and ages? Jordan, 8 Jasmine, 5

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **MBA**

At which institution? **NYU**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) I have 2 wonderful children which make life so rewarding.

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) I have worked at PepsiCo in Westchester for the past 8 years in the Human Resources function.

In my spare time, I... Work out. I love doing boot camp type classes and recently started biking. I have also emerged into the dating world (post-divorce) and that has been an adventure and learning experience for me.

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

Becoming a mother.

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

My best friends in the entire world are my classmates. I would NEVER have survived some hard times without their love and support.

# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: Alicia

Maiden Name:

Last Name: Vasquez

Are you married? No

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name?

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 2

What are their names and ages? Aidan (age 8) & Frank (age 6)

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **Juris Doctor**

At which institution? **American University's Washington College of Law**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) During law school, I began working for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and I've been with the agency now for 13 years. As an attorney for the agency, I am also a law enforcement officer and attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia in early 2001. I've worked for the Bureau of Prisons full time since passing the bar and have worked inside a variety of federal prison facilities, providing legal advice and assistance to federal prison staff and wardens. My current position as Assistant General Counsel is not inside an institution, but rather in an office setting in Dallas, Texas, where I work primarily on federal sentence computations and designation issues. Currently, I travel quite a bit for the Bureau of Prisons, speaking to groups of attorneys, judges, and U.S. Probation Officers regarding prison issues. Each year I give a presentation at the National Seminar on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which will be held this year in Florida.

In my spare time, I... love to play with my boys and just enjoy watching them grow. They both play soccer and my older son is a Cub Scout. I also enjoy scrapbooking all the fun times we have. Exercising and group fitness classes have always been a passion of mine as well. I'm active in my church and recently became a Stephen Minister.

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

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Since graduation from Brandeis, I went to law school, passed the New York state bar and began working for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I have two beautiful boys, ages 8 and 6, and I love that everything in life has become new again through their eyes. I will be forever grateful to Brandeis for providing me an outstanding education and a foundation on which to begin my professional life. I'm thankful for the Brandeis scholarship funds I was granted as a student, which helped make a college education possible for me. I made wonderful life-long friends at Brandeis and I'm forever grateful for the experience.





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First Name: James

Maiden Name:

Last Name: Feinberg

Are you married? yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? JonaRose Jaffe Feinberg

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 2

What are their names and ages? Maggie and Ben, almost 6

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering**

At which institution? **Penn State**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) In San Diego, I became very active in my community, serving on our Planning Group and our Emergency Response Team. I'm very proud of my wife, who is a successful Lactation Consultant and lead the San Diego Parents of Twins Club through unprecedented growth, and of our amazing children who are teaching us new things every day. Now we're moving to Seattle on a new adventure!

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) After 10 great years as a Theatrical Production Manager, working at the American Repertory Theatre and La Jolla Playhouse and teaching at the University of San Diego, I decided to change careers into a field where I could build things that lasted longer than a few months. I got my Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering and a job at the MITRE Corporation advising the DoD on advanced radio systems. I've just started a new position as a Spatial Integration Engineer with Boeing Commercial Airplanes in Everett, WA, where I'm looking at the entire 747-8 to make sure that everything is there that should be and nothing's where it shouldn't be (each airline's plane is customized).

In my spare time, I... design websites, play softball and soccer with my kids, and volunteer in my community

What has changed the most about you since graduating?  
becoming a father

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First Name: Diederik

Maiden Name:

Last Name: Basch

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Meida

Do you have children?

No

If so, how many children do you have?

What are their names and ages?

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **MBA**

At which institution? **Indiana University**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.)

In my spare time, I...

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

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First Name: Caryn

Maiden Name: Mark

Last Name: Finley

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Hank Finley

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 1

What are their names and ages? Madeline Finley, six months

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **JD**

At which institution? **Brooklyn Law School**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) My husband and I got married in November 2008 and moved to a new home in Bethesda, MD. We welcomed our daughter, Madeline in October 2011 and have been loving parenthood. I'm still involved in Alumni Admissions Council and definitely feel my age each and every year I conduct interviews. I'm also involved in other alumni activities in the DC area.

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) After graduating from Brooklyn Law School, I moved to Washington, DC and joined the Department of Justice, Tax Division through the Honors Program. I have been with DOJ Tax since September 2000 where I prosecuted white collar criminal cases, including tax evasion and conspiracy.

In my spare time, I... love baseball. My husband and I are season ticket holders for the Nationals so most days between April and October you can find us at the ballpark.

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

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First Name: Eric

Maiden Name:

Last Name: Kaplan

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Randi Kaplan

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 3

What are their names and ages? Olivia (6), Jack (3), Hannah (9 months)

Did you attend graduate school?

No

If yes, what degree did you earn?

At which institution?

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.)

In my spare time, I... Play softball and train for triathlons

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

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First Name: Gail

Maiden Name: Paris

Last Name: Schwartz

Are you married? yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Ed Schwartz

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 2

What are their names and ages? Sarah - 6 Annie - 3

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **Dual Masters- Special Ed and Elementary Ed**

At which institution? **Adelphi University**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.)

In my spare time, I...

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The summer after graduating from Brandeis, I moved to Israel for a year (something I had always wanted to do, simply to experience everyday life there). In my time there, I met some really interesting people, through the classes that I took and at the bar where I worked. Upon returning home, I attended Adelphi University to earn a dual MA in Special Education and Elementary Education. I began my teaching career, and am still working, at Great Neck North High School (my alma mater). In December, 1999, I was set up on a blind date with my husband, Ed, (thank you JILL VAN DENBURG and BETH LEVINE AIN!), and we got married in November, 2003. We currently live in Port Washington, NY, with our two daughters, Sarah (6) and Annie (3), where we regularly spend time with a bunch of other Brandeis alumni and their families who also live in the area. Life is good!

# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: Meredith

Maiden Name: Harman

Last Name: Stewart

Are you married? yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? David Stewart

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 3

What are their names and ages? Sophia, 8 Isaac, 6 Max, 3

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **J.D.**

At which institution? **Southwestern University**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) My husband and I are busy enjoying our three kids, who keep us very busy these days. We are active in our synagogue community, with our extended families and with friends. I remain connected to Brandeis through the Alumni Admissions Council. I love sharing my Brandeis experiences with prospective students. I try to stay connected with my Brandeis friends that live near and far.

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.)

In my spare time, I...

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I look forward to reconnecting with Brandeis and the Brandeis community during our reunion weekend. I cannot believe it's been 15 years already!



# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: Alisa

Maiden Name: Zelman

Last Name: Finsten

Occupation: Grants Director for Los Angeles Mayor's Office

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Jim Finsten

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 2

What are their names and ages? Sammy, 2 1/2 Joey, 7 months

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **Masters of Public Administration**

At which institution? **NYU**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) Met my husband Jim at the wedding of Meredith (Harman) Stewart in 2001. The wedding was in LA but I was living in NYC at the time. After several years of a long distance relationship, I finally moved to LA in 2004. We got married back in MA near Brandeis (Newton Marriott) Labor Day 2006 and welcomed Samuel Gideon in October 2009 and Joseph Ethan in September 2011. Am beyond blessed to have such a wonderful family!

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) After Brandeis, I spent 10 years working in the nonprofit sector doing program administration and fundraising, got my MPA at NYU and for the last 4 years have been working in Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's office in Los Angeles as the Grants Director for his Homeland Security and Public Safety team. Our office is responsible for administering federal grants from DHS and DOJ for the LA region.

In my spare time, I... enjoy the California sunshine with my two wonderful children!

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

much more confident, outgoing, assertive!

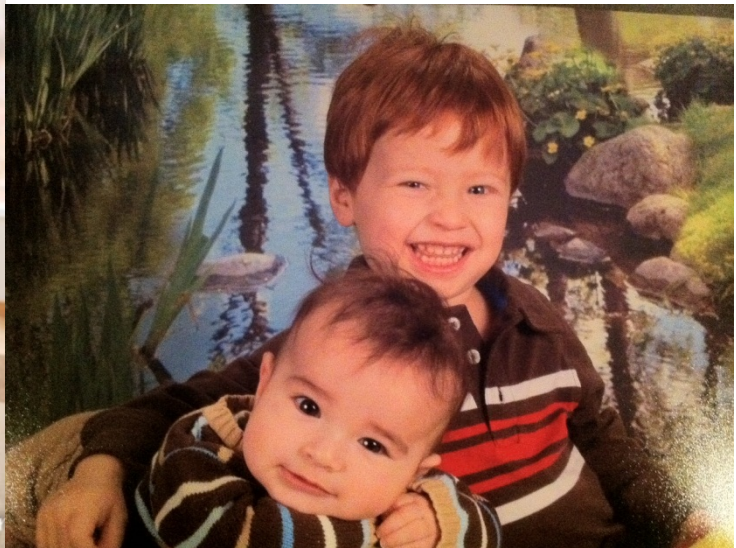
What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

Meeting hubby at a Brandeis wedding. At our wedding, we had several generations of graduates including my Dad (Allan, '64) and some of his friends. Perhaps one of our kids will end up back at Brandeis someday.... Actually one day I did meet a woman in our neighborhood while out walking with the boys who was also from Boston, gone to Brandeis, and moved to LA after meeting her husband...and two of her kids were named Sammy and Joey....

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First Name: Mark

Maiden Name: Mark Fisher

Last Name: Fisher

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Bryana Zaplin

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 1

What are their names and ages? Isabel Dalya, 6 months

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **MD, MPH**

At which institution? **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) Since graduation, I married Bryana (Brandeis '02), and 6 months ago, we welcomed our amazing daughter into our lives.

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) After graduation, I went to med school, then residency in Internal Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, fellowship in Rheumatology at NYU, and now work in Boston at MGH.

In my spare time, I... I have a 6 month old. I have no spare time.

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

Meeting my wife (class of '02) several years after graduation. We didn't overlap at all, and met 8 years after I graduated when we were both living in Philadelphia.

# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: Kevin

Maiden Name:

Last Name: Rosenzweig

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Stefanie Rosenzweig

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 1

What are their names and ages? Asher Solomon, 2

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **MBA**

At which institution? **BC**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) Stefanie and I have been married for 4 years. We recently went to Israel to sightsee and attend Bar Mitzvahs of two of our friend's children. I am on the board of directors of the JCC of Puerto Rico.

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) I am the CIO of a retail company in Puerto Rico (Me Salvé). Almost a year ago, Stefanie and I started an online and brick and mortar company called FluffRump. We sell cloth diapers and eco-friendly accessories.

In my spare time, I... Spend time with my family.

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

Married and 1 kid!

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: Libra

Maiden Name: Gilbert

Last Name: Forde

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Shawn Forde

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 3

What are their names and ages? Xaun, age 12; Heaven-Leigh, age 6; Love, age 3

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **MBA/Marketing**

At which institution? **University of Phoenix**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.) I have been giving to our community through a foundation my husband and I founded, Utopian Academics for Military Children (UAMC). This organization provides educational scholarships to military children during times of transition, such as geographic relocation due to military requirements or active duty parent deployments. In addition, I serve the community as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc with whom I serve as a chapter president.

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) I am a school administrator for the first hybrid public charter school in Hawaii called Hawaii Technology Academy (HTA). This school provides education to students on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Big Island. The model includes the robust curriculum of K12, Inc.

In my spare time, I... love to perform with community theatres. I have had the pleasure of performing in FAME, Seven Guitars, and Maurice Carter (a fundraising for the Innocence Project).

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

Hmmm.....my geographically location is probably the biggest change. Another change would be my education level. I am currently almost done my Doctorate degree. YAY!!!

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?

Living in Hawaii is like living in a different country. Many things that are common knowledge on the mainland are unknowns here in Hawaii. I was driving and came to a stop at a light and looked at the bumper sticker on the car in front of me and it said.

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First Name: Brett

Maiden Name:

Last Name: Ward

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Ekaterina Ward

Do you have children?

Yes

If so, how many children do you have? 2

What are their names and ages? Alec Gabriel Ward: 2 1/2 years old Ariana Alisa Ward: 2 months old

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **J.D.**

At which institution? **Cardozo School of Law**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.) Currently a partner at Blank Rome LLP in the matrimonial department.

In my spare time, I...

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?



# Class of 1997

## 15th Reunion

First Name: David

Maiden Name:

Last Name: Hananel

Are you married? Yes

If so, what's your spouse/life partner's name? Yvonne Hananel (Lester)

Do you have children?

No

If so, how many children do you have?

What are their names and ages?

Did you attend graduate school?

Yes

If yes, what degree did you earn? **JD**

At which institution? **Columbia Law School**

Personal Update (Family, community activities, travel, etc.)

Professional Update (Graduate school, career, honors, promotions, etc.)

In my spare time, I...

What has changed the most about you since graduating?

What is your funniest/best/oddest "Brandeis Coincidence" moment since graduation?