CLASS OF 1991
25TH REUNION
Brandeis University

25th Reunion
Dear Classmates,

It’s been twenty-five years! Can you believe it?!?

The pages of this yearbook are filled with the stories, memories and histories that describe what our experiences at Brandeis mean to each of us, and how those experiences shaped who we became. There is no doubt about it: our time at Brandeis — and the knowledge and experiences we gained there — played an important role in determining our worldviews and impacted how we would live our lives. For many of us, our years at Brandeis also cemented some of our most meaningful and transformative personal relationships.

As we perused the pages of our 25th Reunion yearbook, we couldn’t help but reflect on the fact that as much as Brandeis shaped us, we shaped Brandeis. We each contributed to the tapestry of experiences, perspectives and opinions that, together, created an intellectual, educational and social environment that was unique to our undergraduate years. So, this book is as much a celebration of us as it is a celebration of Brandeis itself. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Our 25th Reunion, June 3-5, is truly a milestone. Our committee has created an exciting line-up of events, all of which promise to be great. It will be amazing to come together as a class and rekindle fond — though perhaps long-forgotten — memories. Those of you who haven’t been back for a while will be dazzled by the campus transformation, but rest assured, we will be nostalgic seeing our old haunts as well.

Happy 25th Reunion!

Best,

Diane Berman                              David Swirnoff                              Jennifer Vangolen

Class of 1991, 25th Reunion Yearbook Coordinators
Special Thanks

On behalf of the Institutional Advancement Division, we would like to thank the members of the Class of 1991 Reunion Committee

Andrea Kramer, Co-Chair
Kenneth Wong, Co-Chair

Diane Berman, Yearbook Coordinator
David Swirnow, Yearbook Coordinator
Jennifer Vangolen, Yearbook Coordinator

Jessica Bergman
Siddharth Chandra
Debra Curtis
Adam Decter
Robert Finkel
Laurie McMillan
Michael Sweet
Allegra Toback-Simon
Taeko Yamamoto
Pop Culture
Academy Award, Best Picture: *The Last Emperor*
CDs outsell vinyl records for the first time.
Ted Turner starts Turner Network Television (TNT).
The first major computer virus infects computers connected to the Internet.
The first World AIDS Day is held on December 1st.

Movies
*Rain Man*
*Who Framed Roger Rabbit*
*Big*
*Die Hard*
*Beetlejuice*
*A Fish Called Wanda*

Died this Year
Roy Orbison
Chet Baker
Luis Alvarez
Edgar Jean Faure
Nora Astorga

Economy
Average cost of new house: $91,600
Average monthly rent: $420
Gallon of gas: 91 cents
Movie ticket: $3.50
Gallon of milk: $1.89

World News
Winter Olympics are held in Alberta, Canada.
Summer Olympics are held in Seoul, South Korea.
Soviet Red Army withdraws from Afghanistan.
Pan-Am 747 explodes from a terrorist bomb and crashes in Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 259 aboard and 11 on the ground.
Iraq-Iran war ends after 8 years and 1.5 million dead.
Earthquake in Armenia kills 60,000.

US News
U.S. Navy ship shoots down Iranian airliner in Persian Gulf, mistaking it for jet fighter; 290 killed.
Over one third of Yellowstone National Park is destroyed when a series of more than 250 different small fires combined with the 1988 drought destroys 793,880 acres.
U.S. Shuttle Program resumes 2½ years after the Challenger disaster.
Republicans sweep 40 states in election, and George H. W. Bush beats Michael Dukakis.
NASA scientist James Hansen warns Congress of the dangers of the global warming and the greenhouse effect.
The U.S. and Canada reach a free trade agreement.
Robert C. McFarlane pleads guilty in Iran-Contra case.

1988
**World News**

Massive protests on either side of the Berlin Wall bring about the collapse of the East German government. The Berlin Wall is eventually dismantled and the Brandenburg Gate is opened.

Thousands of students occupy Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China protesting for democracy; hundreds of demonstrators are killed. The U.S. and other countries around the world place sanctions on China.

Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the Dalai Lama.

200,000 protesters in Prague, Czechoslovakia call for resignation of the government, which leads to free elections.

The Malta Summit between the USSR and the U.S. ends the Cold War.

**US News**

A San Francisco Bay area earthquake measuring 7.1 in magnitude killed 67 and injured over 3,000. Over 100,000 buildings are damaged or destroyed.

The serial killer, Ted Bundy, is executed in Florida’s electric chair.

The first of 24 satellites of the Global Positioning System is placed into orbit.

The U.S. government provides a $150 billion bailout for savings and loan associates.

Exxon Valdex tanker leaks 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska’s Prince William Sound.

Army General Colin Powell is the first black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Scientists declare 1989 as the warmest year on record, possibly a sign of the greenhouse effect.

**Pop Culture**

*Academy Award, Best Picture: Rain Man*

The first edition of Microsoft Office is released.

Toyota launches Lexus, its new luxury car brand.

Nintendo releases the Game Boy.

*The Simpsons* debut on FOX.

**Movies**

*Batman*

*Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*

*Lethal Weapon 2*

*Back to the Future Part II*

*Driving Miss Daisy*

*Dead Poets Society*

*When Harry Met Sally*

**Died this Year**

Lucille Ball

Samuel Beckett

Salvador Dali

Bette Davis

Ferdinand Marcos

Billy Martin

Laurence Olivier

Sugar Ray Robinson

Andrei Sakharov

Robert Penn Warren

**Economy**

Average cost of new house: $120,000

Average income per year: $27,450

Average price for new car: $15,350

Gallon of gas: 97 cents

U.S. postage stamp: 25 cents
World News

Nelson Mandela is released from a South African prison after 28 years and becomes leader of the African National Congress.

Industrialized countries around the world agree to stop dumping waste into the oceans.

Margaret Thatcher announces her resignation as British Prime Minister.

The Hubble Space Telescope is launched.

East and West Germany reunite.

The Cold War ends and the Communist Party gives up power of the Soviet Union.

Pop Culture

Academy Award, Best Picture: Driving Miss Daisy

The Euro dance band Milli Vanilli admits to lip-synching hits such as "Girl You Know It's True," and has their Grammy award revoked.

Seinfeld debuts on NBC.

The first in-car satellite navigation system is sold by Pioneer.

Entertainment Weekly hits newsstands.

World Wide Web debuts.

Movies

Dances with Wolves

Good Fellas

Ghost

Pretty Woman

Total Recall

Die Hard 2

Dick Tracy

Edward Scissorhands

Economy

Average cost of new house: $123,000

Average income per year: $28,960

Average monthly rent: $465

Cost of a gallon of gas: $1.34

1990

Die this Year

B.F. Skinner

Jim Henson

Greta Garbo

Sammy Davis, Jr.

Le Duc Tho
World News
Operation Desert Storm is a success; Iraqi forces are driven out of Kuwait.
South African schools are integrated for the first time.
The Dead Sea Scrolls are revealed.
Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia win independence from the USSR.
Israel and Soviet Union resume relations after 24 years.

Pop Culture
Academy Award, Best Picture: *Silence of the Lambs*
Katie Couric is designated as co-host of *The Today Show.*
M.C. Hammer offers a $50,000 reward for Michael Jackson’s white, crystal beaded glove which was stolen from the Motown Museum in Detroit.
Nirvana releases the song “Smells Like Teen Spirit.” With Nirvana’s hit comes the grunge movement.
Fox Broadcasting is the first network to permit condom advertising on television.

Movies
*Thelma & Louise*
*City Slickers*
*Terminator 2: Judgment Day*
*Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*
*Hook*
*Father of the Bride*
*Sleeping with the Enemy*
*The Naked Gun 2 ½: The Smell of Fear*

US News
Clarence Thomas is appointed to the Supreme Court after being accused of sexual harassment by Anita Hill.
Four Los Angeles police officers are accused of beating black motorist, Rodney King.
70 tornadoes break out in the central U.S., killing 17.
Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton announces he will seek the 1992 Democratic nomination for President of the United States.
Basketball star, Ervin “Magic” Johnson announces he is HIV-positive.

Economy
Gallon of gas: $1.12
Minimum wage: $4.25
Gallon of milk: $2.80
One dozen eggs: 85 cents
Loaf of bread: 72 cents

Died this Year
Michael Landon
Dr. Seuss
Miles Davis
Freddie Mercury
Redd Foxx
Lee Remick
Tennessee Ernie Ford
Frank Capra
Danny Thomas
Fred MacMurray

1991
1991
- President: Evelyn E. Handler
- Commencement Speaker: Daniel Bell
- Tuition: $14,940/year
- Room & Board: $5,960/year
- Total Undergraduate Population: 2,799
- Graduating Class of 1991: 752 students
  - 52% female
  - 48% male
- Countries Represented: 28
- Number of Majors: 32
- Number of Minors: 25
- Most Popular Majors: Psychology, Economics, English and Politics

Today
- President: Lisa M. Lynch P'17
- Commencement Speaker: Julieanna L. Richardson '76
- Tuition: $47,274/year
- Room & Board: $13,706/year
- Total Undergraduate Population: 3,729
- Graduating Class of 2016: 926 students
  - 56% female
  - 44% male
  - 84% domestic
  - 16% international
- Countries Represented: 57
- Clubs and Organizations: 250+
- Number of Majors: 42
- Number of Minors: 45
- Most Popular Majors: Economics, Biology, Psychology, Health: Science, Society & Policy Program
Coalition Protests Looming Gulf War

By LISA GOLDFEIN and ILENE ROSENBERG

Chants of “What does this country need the least? An unjust war in the Middle East!” echoed from the stage of the Student Center, as the Brandeis Coalition for Peace held a rally and march to protest the looming prospect of war in the Middle East.

More than 70 members of the Brandeis community attended the hour-long protest. Forty-nine crosses and Stars of David were displayed to represent the soldiers who have been killed, and the many soldiers who will be killed if a declared war breaks out in the Middle East.

Greg Wiper, a graduate sociology student involved with the Coalition for Peace, pointed out that the crosses and stars, which resemble grave markings, will hopefully call attention to the fact that if a serious war breaks out, the U.N. is the pipsqueak. “You support Bush, you support death for all!” and “You either support war for oil or you protest it. Silence is a death warrant!”

Standing on a milk crate in front of the student center, Marcie Diamond ’91, a member of the Brandeis Coalition for Peace, invited the attendees of the protest to openly express any feelings of concern they had.

Students and professors alike spoke out against a war in the Middle East.

Professor Gordon Fellman

Please see War, page 2

Computer Networking Facilities

Opened to Community

Kevin Littlefield ’93 uses a Macintosh computer in the Feldberg microcomputer cluster to access Student Network Services. SNS offers students the ability to send and receive electronic mail and information.

By JOSH FLAX

Brandeis recently became one of the first universities in the nation to offer a computer networking service to its entire community. Manager of Technical Services Richard Grossman ’82 spearheaded the effort.

Undergraduate and graduate students, and members of the faculty and administration will have access to the new system, Student Network Services (SNS), said Grossman.

SNS has been operational for two weeks. The system is fully functional at the present time, however it will continue to “undergo changes for the better,” Grossman said.

Most universities across the country, including Brandeis before the implementation of SNS, have a variety of computer information services and databases that were not connected to each other and not available to the majority of the student population.

Brandeis has several different computer systems designed for specific use in specialized academic areas. The new system will link together.

The new network is controlled by a computer called PIP, manufactured by Digital Equipment Corporation of America. Through PIP, all of the various computerized databases on campus will be connected to each other, said Grossman.

One improvement is the electronic mail bulletin board, said Grossman. Any PIP user will be able to send and receive electronic mail to and from any other computer user that has access to PIP or any of the other computer systems on campus, he said.

PIP offers services other than electronic mail. A news service, NEWSREADER, gives users access to Usenet News, a collection of newsgroups.

Please see PIP, page 7

Parading for Peace

Brandeis supports Students Against Domestic Violence campaign from the Student Union for a walk in their honor.

The students marched around the Norfolk Road for five hours.

Parading for Peace

Singer Elvis Costello Booked For Bronstein Weekend Show

By KAMIE DUNN

Pop musician Elvis Costello will perform here on April 13, highlighting the annual Bronstein Weekend. Student Events officials announced last week that Costello has had hits on the charts such as “Alison,” “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood,” and “Less Than Zero.” His commercial peak occurred in the late 1970’s. His most recent album, “Spice,” was released after a two-year break from recording.

The cost of Costello’s performance in Shapiro Gymnasium on April 13 is $25.00, according to Student Events Director Jeff Helfer ’80. Ticket prices for the concert will be $20 and $25, and will only be available to the Brandeis community, unless there is a difficulty selling tickets. Helfer added that a decision has not yet been made as to when and where the tickets will go on sale.

Costello’s appearance at Brandeis is part of his college tour of the Northeast. He will perform at University of Vermont, University of Rhode Island, and University of New Hampshire. It will be his first U.S. concert tour in two years.

In past years, Howard Jones and The Hooters have performed over Bronstein Weekend, the traditional spring party weekend.

Pop musician Elvis Costello, who had hits such as “Alison” and “Less Than Zero,” will perform here on April 13. Costello’s performance will be part of his first U.S. concert tour in two years.

“I’m more excited than I can express coming to campus,” Helfer expresses about having an artist like Costello.
Kahane Assassinated 5 Days After Brandeis Speech

Rabbi Meir Kahane, the founder of the Jewish Defense League, was assassinated in New York City last night. The controversial orator made one of his last public appearances at Brandeis Wednesday.

Brandeis Allows Visit Despite Student Sponsor's Lack of Security Precautions

Indigos Perform at Stein

Members of the large Brandeis delegation look on as the band performs.

Several Brandeis students make their way early Sunday morning to the Lincoln Memorial, site of the event.

NOVEMBER 12, 1989
WASHINGTON D.C.
Activism Returns as Campus Debates War Effort

By KAMA EINHORN

Not since the Vietnam war has Brandeis or the country become so emotionally involved in a conflict thousands of miles away from our shores. While campus activism is not at the level it was in the last 1960s—when political protests and teach-ins were common—the concerns of those events have been rekindled.

The media's portrayal of the war is an obstacle to understanding what it is all about. Students at Brandeis have no access to information regarding alternatives to the war, and they hope they will actively seek new ways to obtain information about alternatives to war, rather than the political and social cohesion that seems to rise out of the crisis. The coalition does not intend to promote itself, and they are looking for other means to promote the movement.

"We should realize that we can do something about this situation, we have our ideas and we have our energies, we can make a difference," said Marci Diamond, a senior at Brandeis and one of the organizers of the coalition.

"It is a call to activism, but not to activism, but to constructive activism," said Robyn Klein '92, an organizer of Brandeis' Campaign against the Viet Nam War. "It is an opportunity to contribute to the larger debate about the war, to contribute to the larger debate about the issues that affect us all, to contribute to the larger debate about the future of our country.

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WBRS Celebrates Birthday with Rap Concert

Local bands Gangst*r Posse, Elektrik Blu and T. D. S. Mob play Levin Ballroom

By SETH BORDEN

Celebrating 23 years of college radio, WBRS will hold its annual benefit concert Saturday in Levin Ballroom. Produced in conjunction with R&B show as part of Black History Month, “Rap Revolution” featured a wealth of local rap talent together on stage.

The artists arranged to perform through their labels, Race Records and B’Dow Records, both Boston-based record companies.

The line-up included guest acts and performers from local acts such as B’Dow’s performance, Gangst*r Posse, a hip-hop and rap group from the Boston area, and Negroes.

Gangst*r Posse’s set included the incendiary hit “New England,” which has been released as a single.

The band’s second member shared the B’Dow stage with performers such as the R&B group, “The Joint,” a hip-hop, R&B band. An all-black theme was accompanied by a keyboard player and guitarist.

Their set included a mix of upbeat dance numbers and slow jams as well.

Capturing the audience with a rapid-fire flow, they kept the crowd engaged with their energetic performance.

The audience wastitivated with a musical diversity that included contemporary hip-hop and soulful R&B.

Sachar Speaks at Israel Support Rally

By GARY S. WARSCHAUER

Brandeis University Chancellor Emeritus Abram Sachar and several hundred members of the Brandeis community yesterday afternoon at a rally to protest the conflict in the Persian Gulf.

The rally, sponsored by the Israeli-American community, was organized to publicly denounce the recent bombings of Israel by Iran, led by Amin Ghanbari, the spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign ministry.

In his speech, Sachar spoke about the need to understand the issues of the Persian Gulf conflict. He emphasized the importance of understanding the complexities of the situation.

His speech was well received by the audience, which included students, faculty, and community members.

Students Protest, Support War

By MICHAEL SERNET

As a divided Brandeis campus prepares for the escalating conflict in the Persian Gulf, students are taking a stand.

One group, led by the Brandeis Coalition for Peace, has organized a series of events to express their views.

One event was a demonstration held on the Brandeis campus, where students gathered to express their support for peace in the Middle East.

The demonstrators held signs with messages of peace and support for the Palestinian people.

They also conducted a silent march through the campus, calling for a end to the conflict.

On the wall behind the audience was a large screen showing news clips of the ongoing conflict.

The students chanted slogans and sang songs of peace.

The event was well attended, with hundreds of students and faculty present.

The atmosphere was one of determination and solidarity, as the students stood together to make their voices heard.

The protest ended with a moment of silence, as the students remembered the victims of the conflict.

The students' actions were a testament to their commitment to peace and justice, and their efforts will continue as they work towards a lasting solution to the conflict.
To the Class of 1991:

I have a sense of awe when I realize that more than decades after the founding of Brandeis, I am still around, succeeded by five presidents during whose incumbencies I have tried hard to be a good predecessor. And that is not easy! It is a joy to follow my annual privilege of offering an affectionate farewell to the senior class. I am deeply gratified that the pledges that were given at the Founding are still steadily protected. The pledges related to the determination that Brandeis must always be a school of highest academic quality, a bastion of complete freedom that its opportunities would be open to all – regardless of race, creed, color or economic status.

And yet as the pledges remain steadfast, it is important to remember that there have been many different Brandeis’. Each generation of faculty and students, within the framework of the pledges, has left its own mark as it has interpreted the basic objectives. For we have not lived in a static world. The University has not been an ivory tower. It has been an ivory fox-hole. There has always been encouragement for our students and faculty to participate in the actions and passions of the times. I have been very proud that the Brandeis family has never limited itself simply to teaching and research, to fact and data. There has always been participation in the current issues of the day. Indeed when I travel to different parts of the country and meet with all the generations of alumni, and cannot always identify them individually, I ask an identifying question to establish a framework of reference. I ask, “When you were at Brandeis, whom and what were you demonstrating against, besides me? Was it civil rights or Vietnam or University governance, or apartheid?” Once I knew what the climate of the demonstration was, personal identification could follow more easily.

Your generation, leading into the 90’s, has been a very special group. Your years here have been set in a period of University crisis, problems of identity, problems raised by controversy over whether the climate of the University has become too Jewish or not Jewish enough, problems of financial deficits as national and state governments curtailed support, especially for scholarship assistance. The administration, in your period here, has mandated economies, and this has generated frequent resistance that the economies were counter-productive. During those disputes, I remember the old Chinese proverb that “He who goes to bed early in order to economize on the expense of candles, often breeds twins.” Your class is leaving its mark on the school and influence the new administration.

So, as we come to this farewell point, there is complete confidence that you will carry out in our subsequent careers, some of the impact of your years at Brandeis, where, we hope, you have learned to avoid inert thinking and have continuously reinforced your commitment to social compassion. More power to all of you.

Abram L. Sachar
Life since Brandeis:

We love to travel as a family. We have taken the kids to Hawaii and Europe on multiple occasions and have recently discovered cruising. However, our most memorable trip was our 2014 trip to Israel with our extended family where we celebrated the B’nai Mitzvah of Sam, his cousin Emma (daughter of Douglas Boxer ’88) and Ethan (son of Randy Weisman ’88).

We live in Weston, just a few short miles from Brandeis where we bring our kids regularly to shoot hoops in the Gosman Sports and Convocation Center. Ron is one of the few members of our class who actually takes advantage of the lifetime gym membership offered to the class of 1991!

We look forward to catching up with all of our friends at Reunion.

Ron and Jennifer (Brenner) Ash

Seems like just yesterday that Ronald Ash and I were hanging out with all of our friends at Brandeis! We were married in 1993 and have two amazing boys, Samuel (14) and Max (11). Ron completed his MHA at the Medical College of Virginia and is Senior Administrative Director of Neurosurgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. Jen completed her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Boston University and runs a boutique organizational consulting practice, Psipher Consulting LLC, working with CEO’s and senior executives in the area of leadership and talent development.

At night and on weekends we help run MAXIS Creations (www.maxiscreations.com), a family business start-up that was founded when Max, who happens to be dyslexic, had the ingenious idea in his 2nd grade art class to put a basketball hoop on a mug for tossing marshmallows into hot cocoa. He was a finalist in the Product Pitch at Fenway product innovation contest and received his first patent at the age of 10. The Mug With A Hoop!™ has been a huge commercial success and is now a top selling mug at retailers like Nordstrom, Uncommongoods and Amazon. Max now has a multi-sport product line and a portion of his profits go to dyslexia-related charities like Understood.org. When we are not watching Sam and Max’s basketball and baseball games, we spend a lot of time as a family advocating for the 1 in 5 kids in the U.S. who struggle with learning and attention issues.
Life since Brandeis:
I am an attorney living in Manhattan (Morningside Heights/Columbia U. area) with my wife, Dr. Anca Askanase, a professor and Lupus specialist at Columbia U. Medical Center, and our two children Natty and Sophie, who both attend Hunter College High School. I am a litigation partner at a mid-sized firm and recently have been doing a lot more work in entertainment law -- especially publishing, fine art and theatrical rights. I love the theater and have also begun a side-career producing commercial theater (so if you have ever been interested in investing in Broadway and Off-Broadway plays and musicals, give me a shout!). I also recently began writing plays for the first time since Brandeis! My family and I recently purchased a 32-acre farm near in the Catskill Mountains near the site of the original Woodstock concert and are hoping to renovate our barn as a multi-purpose theatrical space and rehearsal facility for non-profit use. This year, I also began teaching legal writing as an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School. If you find yourself in Upper Manhattan, look us up!

What I share with people about Brandeis:
My wife and I were visiting Brandeis about four months ago on a side trip from a family gathering. We had been touring a lot of college campuses recently with our teenage son and found them overwhelming. We stop to sit on a bench facing a hill not far from the campus library when Anca turned to me and said, for the first time after many visits “I see why you liked this place; it just feels like a safe place to learn.” She pegged it. Brandeis is a safe environment to learn about courses, life and yourself.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
During my freshman year, my roommates and many of my friends were involved in the fine arts program while I was focused on politics and NEJS. I never gave it another thought until I left campus Junior year and spent those months abroad in Los Angeles (where I worked for CBS) and then at Hebrew U. When I returned, I was close to completing my major/minor and realized I was missing something from my education and, frankly, my mind-set. My senior year, in addition to many political activities and my writing (Justice, Brandeisian, WBRS), I also ventured deep into the arts quad. By the end of that year, I had taken a drawing course, a printmaking course and a playwriting course; and I felt like I had discovered part of Brandeis that was hidden from everyone else. The campus came alive for me again that year, with new friends, new experiences, and a chance to touch the arts that I carry to this day. That, for me, was the true Brandeis Secret.
What do I want to accomplish in the next 25 years? Gosh, there’s so many things. However, if I had to make a list it would probably look something like this. Create more art. Sell my art. Take up tennis again. Travel to many destinations too long to list here. Volunteer more. Build a dollhouse of my childhood home. Write a children’s book, or two or three. Gut renovate a NYC brownstone (I can dream, can’t I?) or country house (mostly) by myself. Learn how to ski really, really well. Procrastinate less. Run a marathon. Play more in the snow. Read more. Live in the moment.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

There are so many Brandeis memories that it’s difficult to pick just one. How about...The Kosher Cops in Sherman, The Leap Year Black Out, the annual Crew Banquets, Campus Police driving me to the ER when I cut myself on a band saw in the scupture studio, being the last class to have our graduation outside, talking through the outlets in Massell, sledding on cafeteria trays, being a RA, relying on an answering machine and having no Internet (and we survived!), Munchies, Rowing at the Head of the Charles, getting pulled over by Campus Police accusing me of speeding which was impossible since it was my first day learning how to drive a stick shift, writing my papers on a typewriter (gasp!), The Justones, working on Orientation ’90, getting up at what many would consider an ungodly hour for crew practice and...certainly never thinking until now just how quickly twenty-five years passes you by.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

Life since Brandeis:

We probably all share a similar sense of disbelief: Can it really be twenty-five years since we graduated? While it’s hard to believe, these past many years have been a wonderful journey.

Immediately following graduation, I found myself in school at Harvard’s Career Discovery Program to see about pursuing a career in architecture. Six weeks later I was hooked.

I moved back home and found a job in a small publishing house where I started out doing editorial work and later moved into design. I learned a lot about the world of publishing and designed a few art books along the way.

In 1993 I was back in school at Washington University in St. Louis to work toward a Master of Architecture. Those three years were both incredibly challenging and rewarding. My days at Wash U ended with my classmates selecting me to give the commencement speech which was quite an honor. I also spent my last studio in South Africa studying alternative architecture for three months with eight of my classmates. Traveling over 10,000 miles, it truly was a once in a lifetime experience.

After graduation, I moved back east to NYC. I worked for a number of years as an architect but I wasn’t nearly as fulfilled as I felt I could be. Architecture school was one thing, the professional world another.

In need of a change, even if temporary, on a whim I applied to NYC Teaching Fellows at the eleventh hour (much like this particular yearbook submission!). Upon acceptance, I thought I would teach for the required two years (maybe stretch it to three). It’s now year twelve.

For six years I worked in an underserved area in the Bronx. I now teach in a highly regarded public elementary school on the UWS in Manhattan. My one and only quasi-claim to fame (by mere association) occurred this past September; Jennifer Hudson’s son is currently a student of mine while she plays Celie in “The Color Purple” on Broadway.

Besides my professional journey, I’ve done a fair amount of traveling, though there are many more places on my bucket list. I’ve often tried to include volunteering as part of my travels and had some wonderful experiences doing just that in both Sri Lanka and the Galapagos. Recently, I’ve actively pursued my artistic interests and for the last year and a half have become thoroughly enamored with jewelry design, working mostly in silver.

While I’m not quitting my day job anytime soon to make jewelry full time, I do think about it! But I also think about the children’s books I want to write, possible career paths that intrigue me, and many other dreams yet to be realized. Who knows where I might land next.

Although I keep in touch with many Brandeis friends, living in New York I often spot a Brandeis decal in a car’s rear windshield or a passerby sporting a Brandeis T-shirt. Seeing these Brandeis reminders always makes me stop and pause. It may be twenty-five years later but those four years in Waltham still rank as pretty special.
Life since Brandeis:

I obtained my PharmD in Atlanta in 1995 and completed a pharmacy practice residency in Brooklyn in 1996. I worked a while as a copywriter in pharmaceutical advertising in Manhattan. I met my husband Daniel at a game convention in New Jersey, though we are both from the Atlanta area. We married and moved to California in 1999 and then back home to Georgia in 2002 to care for my mother and be closer to our families. I immediately returned to hospital practice and we had our son Alex in 2006. In 2013 I went back to school at Emory to get my MPH in epidemiology, and I am slowly chewing on that while raising our son and enjoying life. In June 2015, my Brandeis sophomore roommate lost a child to brain cancer, so we are now very involved as a family and a community with Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, trying to find better treatment, and perhaps someday a cure for childhood cancer. In January of 2016, we moved to Raleigh, NC, where I plan to start a second lemonade stand dynasty, re-learn guitar and become passable on the Banjo.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

I’ve learned perspective in the past 5 years after having a near-death experience or two. Life is precious and meant to be fully experienced and enjoyed as much as possible. I wish I had been less stressed out at Brandeis, less worried about final outcome (graduation), and more process-focused, enjoying the journey. That being said, I greatly enjoyed my time hanging out in the dorm, volunteering with Student Events, and solving the problems of the World over breakfast with my friends. My Brandeis experience has me already talking to my son about the importance of going to a liberal arts college and living in the dorms. I’ve never been able to replicate the Brandeis experience anywhere else, there’s nothing else like it! I am so glad that I have been able to remain a part of the lives of many of my classmates.

My greatest achievements:

Some of my greatest achievements were simply part of the usual Brandeis experience: lobbying in Washington for Soviet and Ethiopian Jewry. I learned important lessons about policy and effecting change that still resonate with me today. One of my Brandeis roommates lost a daughter to brain cancer on her 6th birthday. I plan to lobby Washington in the future to increase funding for pediatric cancer research and brain cancer research. I would not have had the confidence to do this if I hadn’t done it at Brandeis. Another great achievement was helping to set up and break down for concerts with Brandeis Student Events. Getting to be a part of such a huge endeavor at such a young age was very empowering. It taught me in a tangible way that each person matters and can make a real difference. We have recently translated that to becoming very active participants in The Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.
Life since Brandeis:

I live on the Seacoast of NH with my husband and children. I'm a psychologist and active in my community. I love harvesting little neck clams and quohogs. I took up running a long time ago as it is the only way I stay sane.
Life since Brandeis:

I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea-Bissau from 1992-94, and played semi-pro soccer for a year with Iberia of Northern Virginia upon my return, while also working prior to graduate school. From 1995-97, I was earning my Master’s degree in International Relations, with concentrations in International Economics and Social Change & Development from The Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Since 1997, I have devoted my life to international and domestic service while living, working, and consulting for numerous organizations in the U.S. and overseas such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Peace Corps, CARE, Oxfam, Citizen Schools, and Chemonics International. I have held leadership roles as Angola Country Representative for CRS (2000-01), Cape Verde Country Director with Peace Corps (2004-07), and U.S. National Director of Civic Engagement at Citizen Schools (2007-09). I am currently Regional Director for Africa at the International Youth Foundation (IYF), based in Baltimore, where I am able to help create economic opportunities for young people by marrying my passions for youth, sport, and Africa.

During my journey, I met my beautiful wife Rachel (Brandeis ’96) in Niger, who was serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer while I was in Niamey for work. We were married in 2001 and have three terrific children - Sebastian (8), Aviva (6), and Leora (3).
Life since Brandeis:

I was working as an optometrist for many years and decided to make a career change to clinical research and am now managing clinical trials. In 2009 I married a fellow Brandeis Alumni from 1993 and we have made a wonderful life together! We enjoy trips to Europe every year!

My most interesting travel experience:

My most interesting travel experience is when I went to Prague in 2012. We were walking down from the Prague castle hungry and tired and all of a sudden this woman opened a window along the outdoor stairwell and it had the most amazing smell! I knew we just had to have one. It is called a Trdelnik. It almost like a cylindrical donut made on a long metal rod! It is coated with cinnamon and sugar and really tasty especially when hot.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

It would have to be when I met one of my best friends Karen Bernstein class of 1990. I had just transferred in and joined the Waltham Club elder outreach to try and meet people. She was looking for someone to go to dinner with and I volunteered as I was always looking for new people to meet. We were eating dinner and this guy who I had met through one of my dorm mates walked over to us. She thought that he was going to meet her but turns out he had wanted to talk to me. She was very surprised and stated “you know him”? Turns out they were friendly as well. This cemented our friendship and I met many of my friends through her that I still keep in touch with today.

Lauren Engel Brenner
I would have invested in Apple!

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:
I would have invested in Apple!

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
The Brandeis Blackout of ’88 on February 29 still stands as my
funniest Brandeis memory.

Life since Brandeis:
I’ve been working at Sony Pictures Entertainment practically
since graduating from Brandeis (November, 1991).

My current title is Vice President, Editorial Services,
responsible for editing the films for U.S. television and airline
exhibition. I also oversee the servicing of content from the Sony
Pictures Entertainment library to the airlines.

Outside of work, I spend a great deal of time with my four
nephews, who all live in Los Angeles. I have also traveled
extensively: I have been to all 50 states (plus the U.S. Virgin
Islands and Puerto Rico), 48 countries, and 6 continents. (Yes,
Antarctica is on my bucket list!)
Life since Brandeis:
  Have lived and worked in the Boston area since graduating from Brandeis. Married with 3 children ages 11, 8 and 8.
Life since Brandeis:

The usual...med school, residency, lived in NYC, worked at Bellevue/NYU for a bit. Got married to a wonderful woman; pregnancy and a 4th floor walk-up were not compatible so we moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn. Had another kid (that’s 2 so far) and in 2007 moved to Bellingham, WA. I have a private practice (psychiatry) and Karen is a community psychiatrist. Liv is 12 and involved in theater, viola, violin, piano, and reading. Tate is 10 and shares the love of theater and reading, but veered off a bit and plays trumpet and video games. We love the outdoor life, keep much too busy, and are watching the years fly by much too fast.
Life since Brandeis:

The 1990s set the direction for the rest of my life. I became a New Jersey lawyer in 1996 and practiced law out of my dorm room as a Rutgers-Newark graduate student in Criminal Justice. My JD/MA combination landed me a professor position at the University of Texas - Pan American in Edinburg, Hidalgo County, bordering Mexico. While teaching CJ courses, I attained my MBA there in 2004, studied in Luneberg, Germany for three weeks, and taught business law at UTPA for four years. My longtime girlfriend Lisa and I were married in 2007 with many Brandeis roommates in attendance! She is an Edinburg native and we continue to live there. Lisa has been a bilingual elementary teacher since 2004 and continues to blame me for pulling her out of the social work profession. While practicing law for two years, I finished a second bachelor’s in History, taking both my Mexican history courses with a Jewish professor from Chicago (of course); I graduated summa cum laude and started teaching U.S. History in high school. This is my fourth year in secondary teaching, and hopefully my last, as I am finishing up my Texas Principal certification.

My hopes to accomplish, see or become in the next 25:

Since NJ lawyers now do CLE, I took the 40-hour Texas Basic Mediation Course at the University of Texas law school. I did one federal mediation and look forward to doing more.

I am on spring break studying for the Texas Principal test, so my career as a school administrator may begin soon. If not, I hope to return to college teaching!

My greatest achievements:

Professionally, I have had the privilege to represent many wonderful people who have had the misfortune to be charged with crimes. On a federal court appointment, my client Robin was charged with felony “illegal reentry,” which he had twice pled guilty to in the past. Robin was adopted at birth by U.S. citizen parents and grew up in Texas. We decided to roll the dice and go to trial, raising the duress defense as well as reasonable doubt as to Robin’s birthplace. The jury returned a not guilty verdict, and my client was promptly deported! I took his immigration case to the U.S. Supreme Court, and there is a pending bill in Congress that would give Robin and other adoptees automatic U.S. citizenship.
Life since Brandeis:
I am currently the Assistant Commissioner for Prosecution for the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) where I supervise a staff of 57 including 37 attorneys who prosecute 100,000 summonses annually. I was previously appointed as the Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge and an Administrative Law Judge for the TLC. I have also served on the NYC Commission to Combat Police Corruption as a Senior Attorney and as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn.

I am married to Neil A. Cohen ’92 and we live in the amazing community of Riverdale, NY with our children Gabrielle, 16 and Ezra, 13 where they attend day school at SAR. We enjoy travelling, skiing, surfing, rooting for our Yankees, and long Saturday lunches with friends and family.
Life since Brandeis:

Wow - tall order for 600 words! I got my Masters degree after leaving Brandeis, and soon thereafter fulfilled my dream of moving from New York to California. After being employed in the technology sector for a few years, I experienced my “mid-life crisis” and went back to school full-time as a law student. After graduation, I lived in the Midwest for just over a year before finding my way back to Los Angeles, where I’ve been enjoying the sunshine ever since.

When I’m not working, I’m probably jetting off somewhere - be it the Brandeis reunion or a city in one of the 99 (and counting) countries to which I’ve traveled. If life is a journey, I want mine to be as diverse and far-flung as possible, and I’m grateful for the opportunities to familiarize myself with such a diverse group of people and places.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

Without a doubt, I would have studied abroad. As great a college town as Boston was, I wish I had been able to appreciate what a semester/year abroad would have meant to my overall educational experience.
Life since Brandeis:

I moved to Los Angeles after graduation for a summer internship and have been here ever since.

On the professional side of life: I spent 15 years at Sony Television rising the ranks to VP, Current Programming (overseeing shows “currently on the air”). During my tenure there, I was responsible for 25 series including The Shield, Rescue Me, Damages, Community and Rules of Engagement. In 2010, our department was a casualty of budget cuts. I powered through 18 mos of unemployment and after a short stint running TV development at a film company, I am now head of Current Programming at eOne Television. Our corporate offices are in Toronto and I am based in the US offices in Beverly Hills. I travel to Canada several times a year, visiting sets in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Halifax. In my 4 years at the company, I have been responsible for 10 comedy and drama series including Rookie Blue, Haven, Bitten and Hell on Wheels.

On the personal side: I am a figure skater. (Yes, in Southern California!) As a kid, I knew how to “date skate”: forwards, backwards, glide on one foot. stop. I started taking lessons again when I was 26 and at 34, I entered my first competition. I have all my single jumps and spins and competitions are broken down by skill level as well as age class. Last year, at the 2015 U.S. Figure Skating Adult Championships, I took 6th in the Freeskate and WON GOLD in the Showcase Comedy event! By the time I’m at reunion, I hope to have more tales to tell as I will be competing at Sectionals in March and Nationals in April of 2016.

For crosstraining, I took up kickboxing at a Krav Maga gym... So not only am I graceful, but I’m badass, too! :-)

Hiking in Banff, Canada (Moraine Lake)

Production bucket list: I got to “slate the take”
Elisa (Kronish) Drake

Life since Brandeis:
Endeared to Boston, I stuck around for a couple of years, living in Beacon Hill (tiny apartment, but great location) and then Brookline (bigger apartment, not as cool a location). I headed back to Chicago to attend grad school at Northwestern to receive my masters in journalism. In 2004, I got married to Kevin Drake, an architect who I met through a friend when I did a 500-mile bike ride to raise money for AIDS organizations in Chicago. I’ve written two guidebooks, hundreds of articles for consumer and trade print and online publications. Currently, I’m the Regional Editorial Director of Where magazines in Chicago, a global visitor publication distributed in hotel rooms. When I’m not working, I’m working—as mom to two elementary school-aged girls. I had been living the city life for 15 years, but moved back to my hometown of Highland Park in 2013 for the suburban schools. We don’t own a minivan yet, but we complain about mowing our lawn and the commute to the city.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
My string of conscious memories: meeting my freshman year roommate and learning she didn’t like Billy Joel (horrors!); dashing for the last commuter train back from the city; stuffing mailboxes with screws for screw-your-roommate invites; waiting for my scheduled time to type up papers at the computer lab; causing a ruckus (yes, it’s the best word for it) in the library when we should have been studying; eating ice cream sundaes for dinner because we could; entering—and nearly winning (fan favorite, I’d say!) the lip-synch contest with “Free to be You and Me”; going to aerobics classes when we still wore leotards; dabbing our pizzas to soak up the grease on pizza days; volunteering in the soup kitchen with the Waltham Group; deciding on T-shirt colors for the special events committee to work the Elvis Costello concert (it was hot pink); getting mix tapes from friends who were juniors when we graduated.

Family photo shoot, 2014
Life since Brandeis:
After graduation, I worked for several years in a prenatal genetics diagnostic laboratory and then continued on to graduate school at Mount Sinai in NYC. I married Joseph Dropkin (Class of ’93) in June 1994. We are now living in Westchester County, NY with our 14 year old daughter and 18 year old son, who - as I write this update- was just accepted to Brandeis for next fall!

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
One of my funniest Brandeis memories has to be eating ice cream with chopsticks in the Environmental Cottage (or perhaps the time friends and I were trying to cook chocolate chip cookies in a frying pan on a hotplate in the Castle...did they not feed us normally there?) My most impactful memory though, certainly has to be meeting my future husband at Shabbat services when I got up for a moment and he stole my seat.

What I share with people about Brandeis:
My kids have been lucky enough to meet quite a few of my Brandeis friends over the years and to tour the campus on several occasions. Of course I have to fill in the details about all the amazing times we had lobbying with Hillel in Washington, hanging out in Ziv suites, and eating ice cream at “Chumley’s”. I’m sure a lot gets lost in the translation, but they know that my 3 years at Brandeis (I was a transfer student) were among the happiest of my life.

Suzanne Reindorf Dropkin

Wedding photo June 1994

Family time at home

Family at daughter’s Bat Mitzvah
Life since Brandeis:

I have been a middle school guidance counselor in the Syosset School District in Long Island, NY for almost 20 years. Helping students and their parents and teachers can be challenging during their adolescent years and especially with the state demands, but still rewarding at the same time.

My family and I are very involved in our temple. Along with being a Sisterhood executive board member, I am chairperson of our annual Mitzvah Day, a day long event of projects of donating and fundraising. My husband, Jonathan is completing his 2 year term as temple president. My son, Jeremy (15 years old), works in the Religious School office on Sundays. Jeremy also enjoys going to NFTY events and seeing his Eisner Camp friends.

My first picture is of my cherished Brandeis friends at Jeremy’s bar mitzvah 2 years ago. I picked a song very fitting for their candle lighting - “Count On Me” by Bruno Mars. (Left to Right: Judi Goldenberg Markowitz (’91) with her son, David, and husband, Glen (’90); Lauren Veit Resnikoff (’89) and her husband, Michael (’88) behind me; Deborah Chariton (’91) next to Jeremy; Amy Horowitz Clayman (’91) with her husband, Michael, and children, Chad and Rebecca; Tamara Chasan Pomeranz (’91) with her husband, Tony, and daughter, Rebecca)

My second picture is from our annual Sukkah party which is always a highlight of our year.

My best to everyone - good health, love, and happiness as we begin this 25th milestone from a special place that we all share.
Rachel Feldman

**Life since Brandeis:**
I’m a writer of marketing materials (currently freelance) in the realms of print, online, and video. I’ve written about everything from architecture and construction to healthcare and for clients as diverse as those in the Fortune 500 and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. I also do voiceover work now and again, which I love, too.

**My most interesting travel experience:**
I wish I’d known while at Brandeis that I loved traveling. I’d have done that summer internship in Paris or London! C’est la vie. I’ve since been to both those places, Morocco, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Prague, Australia and New Zealand, and more.

**I hope to catch up with the following people at Reunion:**
Very much looking forward to reconnecting with Anissa (Burke) Noreke, Christopher Bowen, and everyone else!
Life since Brandeis:

Dave Fenick and I have been married since 2000 and have two boys. We live in New Jersey and enjoy returning to Massachusetts to visit with family and Brandeis friends. We’ve enjoyed many vacations to the Orlando area and a few to Hawaii. I taught or directed in child care centers up until 2005, when I joined our county’s child care resource and referral agency. After ten years as the Child Care Referral Specialist, I’ve been the Lead Professional Development Trainer since September 2015. I train child care providers and coordinate our agency’s training calendar, bringing in other professionals for workshops.

Life lessons learned at Brandeis:

I learned how to be a grown up, speak up and get by on my own.

Latest Disney trip, 11/15

1/15 -- the boys finally got their dog!
Life since Brandeis:
I live in Newton with my wife Sherene and kids- Josh (15), Leora (13) and Shira (9). Professionally, I am a transactional attorney at a law firm in Wellesley, Massachusetts with clients throughout New England, in Israel and worldwide. I serve on the Board at Temple Emanuel of Newton and at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston and am also a member of the City of Newton’s Economic Development Commission. I am proud to be on our Reunion Committee and look forward to connecting with everyone at Reunion!

What I share with people about Brandeis:
Brandeis has tremendous professors that know how to teach and how to help students develop analytical skills and to grow as learners- from Kimelman to Sarna to Fischer and more- this is a great strength of the school. Brandeis also has many talented, dedicated, students and it is a great place to make lifelong friends, many of whom I hope to see at reunion!

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
Freshman year I recall all the Presidential candidates coming to visit. I recall travelling to Washington DC with Brandeis students to participate in the Soviet Jewry rally and to the UN in NY to a rally in support of Israel. Travelling to Israel junior year with many Brandeis students was an incredible experience and memory, as was senior year on Russell Street and graduation with so many great friends.
Life since Brandeis:

After graduating from Brandeis, and a brief career in the fashion industry, I obtained my Masters in Education, and have had a rewarding career as a teacher. The 2 biggest joys of my life are my sons Zachary 16 and Jake 13.
Life since Brandeis:
Left Brandeis with an Amstd degree and drove to Alaska with friends to process salmon. Worked 16 hours a day, 7 days a week for 3 months straight. Up to my keppie in scales and entrails. Drove back home and threw a dart at a map with a friend to determine my next adventure. Dart landed in Utah. Uh oh. Best two out of three? Second dart landed in Utah. Uh oh. Hey, Utah is close to Las Vegas ... let’s move to Las Vegas! So off to Las Vegas for the year, where I manned the information booth in Bob Stupak's Vegas World, now The Stratosphere.
Bye Bye Vegas, hello California Institute of the Arts where I pursued my Masters in Film for a few years, then settled in Los Angeles for about 12 years.
I started out with a cool public relations internship with the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, but it wasn’t the environment for me. ... so I switched gears and started working in the Adult Entertainment industry.
I spent years at VCA. Always behind the camera. Almost always. I did voice overs and eventually became the asset manager responsible for digitizing decades of slides so they could be enjoyed on this new thing called the internet. Then on to JBvideo.com where I wore oh so many hats - but my official title was Webmistress. Oh the glorious life of a smut peddler.
Then I married my amazing friend from Brandeis after a long distance 16-year relationship (yay Christian Fullerton) - and started a family and moved back to Delaware to be closer to family.
I’ve been in Delaware ten years now. I spent the first few years telecommuting to the porn office back in California, but eventually quit my day job to follow my passion of becoming a photographer. Now I own Sharon Fullerton Photography and I spend my weekends photographing Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, with the occasional family session and wedding in there too.
Life is good.
www.sharonfullerton.com

I hope to catch up with the following people at Reunion:
Unfortunately I have to work the weekend of reunion. Such is the life of a Bar Mitzvah photographer that books two years in advance.
I’m happy to keep in touch with a handful of friends ... and stay connected to others one little facebook post at a time. You know who you are. I’m glad you’re in my life.

My greatest achievements:
Overcoming addiction.
My fondest memories of Brandeis are from the year I lived in The Castle. I was very close to the other people in D Tower, and also some of the people from C Tower. We spent many evenings just hanging out and talking.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

Life since Brandeis:

Professional:

Many people may remember me as one of the fixtures of WBRS, and after I was graduated in 1991, I had a very brief career in radio, working as both a weekend DJ and afternoon news anchor at WSMN in Nashua. The novelty wore off very quickly -- not earning a living wage helped -- and I left radio and went back to the print world. I spent the next 15-odd years in both newspapers and corporate communications, depending on how I felt and the opportunities available.

A lot of the work was free-lance. Some of the highlights include writing for the Boston Book Review, several stints at advertising agencies and working as the copy editor for Home Cooking.

I spent 2 1/2 years as the public relations manager for Genesee Country Village & Museum, a living history museum near Rochester, New York. During my term, I was responsible for producing all the advertising and museum publications. My two proudest moments were publicizing our winter holiday event and seeing record attendance, and coordinating stories with members of the entire local media during our Independence Day event.

I worked for four years on the copy desk of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. While I was there, I managed to write an award-winning headline. I also had the opportunity to do some of my own writing with the celebrity round-up column and a weekly quiz on the news.

Personal:

Scott Fybush '92 went from being my boyfriend to my fiance to my husband. In May of 2016 we celebrated 20 years of marriage. We lived in Boston for about five years after our respective graduations, until Scott got a job offer in his hometown of Rochester, New York. We were already getting tired of some of the issues that come with living in a big city, and we also liked the fact that the housing market was much more affordable in Rochester. We’ve been living in Rochester for the past 19 years.

We have two children, Ariel, who will turn 13 in September and will have her Bat Mitzvah in December of 2016, and Eli, who is 8 and will be moving from primary school to elementary school this fall.

I have been a Girl Scout leader of Ariel’s troop for the past eight years, taking them from Daisies to Brownies to Juniors and now Cadettes. That makes up the majority of my volunteer work, but I enjoy it a lot.

Sadly, the last 8-10 years have been difficult due to a chronic illness that resulted in nine surgeries, but I seem finally to be moving past the worst of it. My last surgery was two years ago and I have been feeling better each month. I am eternally grateful to my husband and children, who have been troopers while dealing with more than they should have had to face.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

My fondest memories of Brandeis are from the year I lived in The Castle. I was very close to the other people in D Tower, and also some of the people from C Tower. We spent many evenings just hanging out and talking.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

I would have worked to be a better student at Brandeis, and I would have done some more writing for the different publications. I probably also would have looked more seriously at graduate school.

Scott Fybush '92 and me at our Doctor Who
My daughter and me at her first Broadway show!
Ariel, Eli and me at our Doctor Who
Eli and his teacher for 1st and 2nd grade.
Life since Brandeis:

I currently work at MassMutual Financial Services as a Systems Designer. I got married in 2013 to my husband Jim and gained a step-son Michael in the process who lives with us full-time. Last year I gave birth to my daughter Skylar. She will turn 1 in May!
Life since Brandeis:

I've been married for 20 years to Marisa Garber. We have 3 wonderful children. Sandy, 16, Joey age 14 and Tessa, age 10. I've run my own Financial Planning firm, Gamm Financial, for the last 16 years, which is located in Providence RI, but serves people nationally.

I have been very active in our local Jewish community serving on several boards, executive boards and serving as President of the local Jewish Day School

Lastly, I have run two Boston Marathons and several triathlons since graduation.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

My kids know Brandeis as the place where I created my greatest friendships. I am fortunate to still stay in touch with a great group of friends.

I hope to catch up with the following people at Reunion:

Rob Gassaway- How are you?
Life since Brandeis:

My years since Brandeis have been pretty picture perfect. Personal life: I got married in 1993, had an amazing daughter in 1998, and a wonderful son in 2002. In 1999, I moved to a house in Cortlandt Manor, NY, which is on top of a mountain, and has the most beautiful view. I am very busy being a soccer, basketball, and baseball Mom. I am also now preparing my daughter for college next year (and sadly she does not want to go to Brandeis.). Professionally: I taught 1st and 2nd grade in the Bronx, NY; taught second grade in New City, NY; took 5 years off to be a stay-at-home Mom; taught a year of preschool in Yorktown, NY; taught a year of preschool in Great Neck, NY; was the Assistant Director for the Universal Pre-K in East Ramapo, NY for a year and a half; and am now in my 5th year as the head teacher of a Pre-K class for a private Jewish Nursery school in White Plains, NY, where I hope to stay put because I absolutely love it!

Steve and I have been married for 23 years!

Cruise to Bermuda -- My Parent's 50th

My children -- Jessica is 17, David is 13

The Family Selfie
Life since Brandeis:

Originally I thought I was going to become an English professor. I talked about it with Karen Klein and she thought it was a bad idea! She said I’d go crazy, and sure enough, not long after starting, I realized she was right. While I was trying to figure out what to do next, I started working part-time in a hospital, and that suddenly and surprisingly got me interested in medicine. After I got my Master’s degree, I moved back to Boston and took premed courses and applied to medical school.

I went back to my homestate of Ohio to attend medical school, and then returned to Boston for residency in Internal Medicine at Tufts. I developed a serious interest in infectious disease and wanted to get involved in international health. My next stop was UMass, where I did my infectious diseases fellowship, and I’ve been out there ever since, now finishing up my 11th year. I do a lot of jobs out there, including working with the students and residents, and I’ve recently taken on running the ID fellowship. It’s a good gig and ending up in medicine—which is something I never, ever thought I would like—has been one of the best accidents of my life. I love taking care of patients and can’t imagine how I could have done anything else.

My work has taken me all over the world and allowed me to care for patients on three continents. Most recently, I have spent a lot of time working in Liberia. I first went there just before the Ebola outbreak started, and then returned there several times over the course of the outbreak, first working in an Ebola Treatment Unit, then training others for such work. My last time back was the summer of 2015 and I miss the place, so I’m trying to get back to Monrovia when the funding and scheduling allow for it.

Although I’ve crossed over from humanities into science professionally, I’ve continued to do writing almost continuously—but I’m a bit more well-behaved than when I wrote for The Watch! I self-published an account of what life as a medical student is like (and can be found on Amazon.com, I note in shameless self-promotion). This spring my first “real” book, Snowball in a Blizzard, is being published, and deals with how uncertainty affects the practice of medicine. I’m also finishing up a manuscript about my experiences in the Ebola outbreak, and that book will hopefully be published in the spring of 2017.

In my personal life, I got married in 1998 just months before medical school, and it’s been a whole lotta busy since then. Miriam and I raise our twins, Erez and Ariella, who are now 14. They went to Lemberg, so I was back on the campus a lot in their early years! They’re great kids, and we have a lot of fun with them.

That’s the scoop! Thanks for reading.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

I think I would have studied harder! I wasn’t very interested in disciplined study at the time, and I have since realized how many opportunities I passed up. Now I’m busy and don’t have the kind of unrestricted time to just soak in a new way of thinking about the world. In particular I wish I understood economics and linguistics better; I dropped out of the intro to linguistics course because it actually required that I, like, do homework and stuff.

I also wish I hadn’t been so judgmental. The world is a whole lot more complicated than how I understood it at the time, and I wince as I look back at some of my more self-righteous pronunciations, whether it was about politics, morality, friendship, or a variety of other things. I wish I would have listened more to other people to understand, really understand, their perspectives.

My most interesting travel experience:

I think a lot about my travel experiences through memorable moments of eating or drinking. One of the best meals I ever had was a plate of beans & rice with a bottle of Coca-Cola in a corrugated tin shack at a market in rural Haiti that cost me a buck; I had a great dinner in what was once long ago a high-end restaurant in Beira, Mozambique where I had chicken in piri-piri sauce; a fantastic margarita at a bar called Tides in Monrovia; steak tartare in a cafe in Brussels when making a visit to Ira Goldberg; and so on. But my favorite restaurants are still here in Waltham!
Life since Brandeis:

I continued my education by earning an MBA in 1997 from Case Western Reserve University (Weatherhead School of Management) in Cleveland, Ohio where I concentrated in Labor and Human Resource Policy and Organizational Development. Professionally, I have spent the last 25 years primarily in Global Real Estate and Facilities spanning many business sectors including Banking, Financial Services, Aviation, Consumer Products, Oil and Gas, and the Technology market. Currently I am the Vice President of Facilities at SunTrust Bank - based out of Atlanta.

The best thing I accomplished since graduation was marrying Rachel (the love of my life) in January 2006. We have two amazing daughters - Hannah (almost 10) and Sarah (8) who are growing into smart, vibrant, beautiful souls. We have crisscrossed the country together - living in Colorado (2x), Washington, Virginia, and now Georgia. Rachel runs her own Doula and natural childbirth education business, while the girls attend Jewish day school at The Davis Academy.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

During the beginning of Sophomore year I returned to my room in Cable to find a very tall Freshman sitting outside in the hall next to a closed door - in his socks - reading a dog eared novel and tossing a tennis ball endlessly against the wall. When asked why he was sitting outside the door in his socks, he informed me that his shoes were locked inside. His roommate hadn’t realized he was in the lounge and he had been sitting there for hours waiting for the roommate to return.

That was how I met Josh Greenberg ’92. We spent several more hours that day waiting for his roommate. We ordered Pizza, talked, and forged a mighty friendship. RIP my friend.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

1987 - 1991 were 4 of the most spectacular years of my life because of Brandeis. I grew into my own, learned critical thinking, found amazing people, and shared so many memories. From long hours talking of politics, professional sports, or the merits of particular classes and teachers in Usdan, or late nite IHOP runs to find “Iced Tea” these were foundational times for me.

Thanks Daniel, Brian, Josh, Josh, and Josh for making “Mod 8” our home away from home. And Carl, Glenn, Allen, and the David(s); Eve, Sherry, Ruth, Julie. Sergej, Lynn & Lisa and many more for being in my life.

Classes of 2030 and 2031 respectively!

Luckiest Man on Earth!

Kisses still make the kids say “Ewww!”

Bobby Herman
Life since Brandeis:
After leaving Brandeis I attended Cornell University where I earned a Master of Science degree in Design and Environmental Analysis. In 1998 I married Steven Horn ’89. Currently, I am a stay at home mom and I am very busy raising our two sons age 15 and 12. It’s the best (and most challenging) job anyone could imagine because I am shaping the future of the next generation.

In my spare time I serve as the Webmaster for our synagogue and actively support the fundraising efforts of a very special not-for-profit organization, North Shore Autism Circle. Their mission is to help fund as well as develop social, recreational, life skill and pre-vocational programs that help children and young adults with Autism lead productive lives in society.

Steven and I enjoy traveling and our adventures have taken us around the United States and as far away as Europe, Israel, Japan and Korea. We are looking forward to our son’s Bar Mitzvah in Israel later this year.

It’s hard to believe that 25 years have passed since graduation. I cherish the many friendships that I formed while at Brandeis and I am fortunate to still have many of those friends in my life...you know who you are :-). I look forward to reconnecting with more classmates at reunion this June.

My greatest achievements:
My greatest achievements are my marriage to Steven and our two boys.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:
I think I would have studied a new language instead of continuing with the language I learned in high school.
My most impactful Brandeis memory was when I learned “impactful” isn’t a word.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
Brandeis informed who I am today profoundly. It created life-long friendships, exposed me to ideas I never would have thought, and gave me experiences I never would have lived if I hadn’t set foot on that campus.

I’m also proud to say that the Mac Classic I bought my senior year still works, so contact me if you need a game of Klondike or Weslyan Tetris.

I’m thrilled to be back in Waltham to see the Castle one last time, and to catch up with you all!

Life lessons learned at Brandeis:
Brandeis informed who I am today profoundly. It created life-long friendships, exposed me to ideas I never would have thought, and gave me experiences I never would have lived if I hadn’t set foot on that campus.

I’m also proud to say that the Mac Classic I bought my senior year still works, so contact me if you need a game of Klondike or Weslyan Tetris.

I’m thrilled to be back in Waltham to see the Castle one last time, and to catch up with you all!

Life since Brandeis:
Life rocks and rolls, and summarizing all the songs would be a major challenge. But the Casey Casem Top 40 Countdown would include hits like:

- Imagine
- Freedom Rock
- Living in the Heart of Washington, D.C.
- Workin’ for the Man [e.g., Solicitor at the Federal Labor Relations Authority]
- A Breakdancing Boy Named Charlie [age 6]
- A Dinosaur-lovin’ Girl Named Alice [age 4]
- A True Love [Beth Jacob, my love, my best friend, my coach, my soul]

And, while there are so many other hits over the last 25 years, what could be more important?
Back in 2001, shortly after their civil war had ended, I went to visit fellow Brandeis alum Jeff Lehrer in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia where he was working for the State Department. We drove to some of the most beautiful and bizarre places. There were essentially no tourists and I’ll never forget paying an old woman a dollar to let us sit in Stalin’s chair.

My most interesting travel experience:

By the time I was 29 we had moved to London and I was heading up a group of two-dozen analysts in all the emerging markets from South Africa to Russia. Our two oldest sons were born there and continue to lord their British passports over their youngest brother.

Finance sounds exciting, but the grass is often greener on the other side of the fence. I always liked writing and got interested in telling the world about all the stuff I had been seeing and doing, perhaps as an author or journalist. Flying back to London from a vacation with my family, I sat next to an editor for Dow Jones Newswires who asked if I had ever been interested in financial journalism. Just 48 hours later I was in her office and accepting her offer of employment. I've written for Dow Jones Newswires, Barron’s, The Financial Times, and for the WSJ in the 14 ensuing years. This summer my first book is coming out, being published by Penguin/Portfolio, on why people are such bad investors and how they can vastly improve their odds (title TBD, please buy it!).

Another thing I’ve learned since college is how much our undergraduate experiences shape what sort of people we become. Those are formative years. The older I get, the more I appreciate the education I got and especially the people I met at Brandeis.
Life since Brandeis:

Shortly after graduation, I moved back to Cairo, Egypt where I had spent my junior year abroad and have been living there since. I am the proud and fortunate single mom to a very inquisitive and quirky 10-year old Amina Kenzi (Amy) who is the light of my life. Amy is a bilingual English and Arabic speaker and is learning French. We love to travel and experience new places, cultures, and peoples. During the past few years, we have traveled to several countries in Europe, the U.A.E., Tunisia, and Morocco. One of our favorite places to get away from the hustle and bustle of Cairo is Siwa Oasis in the Egyptian Western Desert, a small piece of paradise on Earth. We travel to California to spend time with family twice a year. I am blessed to have a daughter who loves adventure, eating new foods, going to museums, and talking to anyone and everyone about everything!

I have worked for the Institute of International Education for 15 years. IIE is one of the world’s largest and most experienced international education and training organizations whose vision is that educational, cultural and professional opportunities transcend borders to foster a peaceful and interconnected world where all people achieve their full potential; think and act as global citizens; and build inclusive, thriving communities. I currently manage a large USAID-funded scholarship program for underserved Egyptian youth. The LOTUS Program is empowering 250 young women and men by providing them with undergraduate education, leadership skills and opportunities, and career development to prepare and equip them to become future leaders and advocates for development in their local communities, Egypt, and the region. I am very passionate about leadership development and feel very fortunate to be able to help Egypt’s youth particularly after the Arab Spring.

In January 2014, I began an M.A. in Ethical Leadership at Claremont Lincoln University, which started a new phase of self-discovery and learning for me that has been impactful in both my personal and professional lives. I have had the opportunity to take courses on personal and professional assessment and have learned about leadership and decision-making from various ethical, economic, philosophical, cultural, religious, humanistic, and contemporary traditions. I have gained valuable skill sets such as collaboration, conflict resolution, communication, and managing in diverse settings. I am currently in my last term completing my capstone project, the focus of which is the following: a study of the role that blind spots and attitudinal outlook play in impacting students’ ability or willingness to engage in scholarship programming in order to understand how my team and I can effectively meet student needs and help them recognize and take advantage of opportunities so as to maximize learning and program impact. The M.A. in Ethical Leadership Program has been a fantastic experience that reminds me of the intellectual challenge and stimulation that we experineced at Brandeis.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

When I talk about my experience at Brandeis to my daughter, I tell her that it was one of the best times of my life for so many reasons. I met wonderful people from all over the world who have become lifelong friends. I studied with and learned from great professors who challenged me academically. I lived in the minority as a Muslim student from Southern California, which was a very enriching experience for me in so many ways. I learned about new cultures and religions and gained an appreciation for diversity. I also learned that our commonalities are much greater than our differences and this is something that I try to teach my daughter and my scholarship students everyday.

My hopes to accomplish, see or become in the next 25:

The past 25 years have been an adventure. I have learned about myself and become a stronger and more caring human being through my work, travels, parenthood, and the challenges that I have faced. In the next 25 years, there is so much that I would like to see, do and accomplish as I continue the adventure. The most important thing that I would like to do, inshaAllah, is to nurture and successfully raise my daughter Amina and to see her one day become a compassionate woman with a servant heart who not only recognizes problems in the world, but who will strive to solve them and help others in whatever area she finds her passion. Perhaps, her curiosity and adventurous spirit will guide her to Brandeis where I know that she would find herself as I did. Finally, I hope that in 25 years, the world will be a more peaceful and kind place for our children and their children.

My daughter Amina and I in the Western Desert

Visiting King Tutankhamun’s treasures in Cairo

Calamari in Rome... fun times always...
Robert Josephs

Life since Brandeis:
I am a consumer bankruptcy attorney. I am married and live in Newton, MA. My wife, Beth, graduated Brandeis in 1993. We have twin boys, Davy and Cory, who are two and half years old.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:
I would have spent more time doing my hobbies and pursuing a career around my hobbies. Also I would not pursue an idea of what I wanted to be in an ideal world but rather would have worked inside my own personal limitations.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
I think the most memorable time at Brandeis was when the lights went out our freshman year on leap day. The campus went dark. The funny thing is that our world was without electricity but if you stepped one foot off of campus, the world was normal.
I am most appreciative of the great friendships I made while at Brandeis. I met some of the best people I have in my life. These friendships remain very active today whereby we see each other during the year and definitely stay in close touch. I also remember some amazing professors in Economics, Sociology, and American Studies. The classes I took held my interest, and I still remember many of the conversations and debates that took places in those classrooms.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

I am remembered by many to have been one of the most loyal dinner customers at the Stein. I really loved that place! It was great getting together with friends after a day of classes and other activities to sit down and enjoy a great meal together. We also enjoyed heading back to the Stein on Thursday nights to listen to bands and kick back and relax.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

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Life since Brandeis:

After Brandeis, I joined a FORTUNE 500 High Tech company based in MA where I went through a two year management training programs focused on Marketing. I went on to complete my MBA at Babson College. Afterwards, I joined the family business, a recruiting firm called New Dimensions in Technology (NDT) based in Boston, MA. NDT is focused on permanent placement in the High Technology industry. With the tremendous growth in High Tech for the past 20+ years, I have been very busy and am fortunate to have many great client companies that are start-ups, mid-size, and large. I met and married my wonderful wife Risa. We have been married for 15 years and have two great kids Benjamin (12) and Arielle (9).
First days of spring 1990 sitting in the cold sunshine on the lawn in front of the academic building, with a name that I no longer remember. Instead of going to class I sat down with friends and found myself in the middle of a group of people which whom I shared a meaningful connection for most of my Brandeis years and beyond.

Life since Brandeis:
I operated a nightclub in Hanford, CA from 1991 to 1995, and then jumped to the music department of the William Morris Agency from 1995 to 2001. After that I traveled with concert tours as an accountant for Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman for 13 years before moving on to developing and managing real estate projects in west Los Angeles with my father, and Yoko, my wife of 6 years. We have a small dog named Turbo and no children.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
First days of spring 1990 sitting in the cold sunshine on the lawn in front of the academic building, with a name that I no longer remember. Instead of going to class I sat down with friends and found myself in the middle of a group of people which whom I shared a meaningful connection for most of my Brandeis years and beyond.
Life since Brandeis:

After graduation I moved back to Miami and attended the University of Miami School of Law. I’m admitted in Florida and have worked at a number of firms, including Baker & McKenzie and Bilzin Sumberg, practicing civil litigation and appeals. In October 2011, I opened up my own firm, Jordan M. Keusch, P.A., with a practice limited to civil appeals and litigation support. I very much enjoy working for myself and being able to practice law, and run my firm, my own way. One of my best clients (and good friends) is a former Brandeis lacrosse teammate, Peter Sosin ’88.

In February 1999 I got married to Michele Brener, Harvard ’89, who also is an attorney. We live in Pinecrest, a Miami suburb. We have two children. Ilana, 14, is a musical theater performer as well as musician and graphic artist. Jonas, 11, is a lacrosse player (much better than his dad) as well as a total Star Wars and Lego geek.

Besides my law practice and doing the family thing, I enjoy coaching youth lacrosse, doing some amateur photography (usually sports or nature), mucking around on social media (especially Facebook), geeking out to Star Wars, Doctor Who, and Lego, and puttering around in my garden and back yard, growing orchids and fruit trees.

Unfortunately I won’t be able to attend our reunion. I hope all of you are doing well and those of you who do attend the reunion have a great time.
For me, Brandeis is about the friendships that I made. I was very quiet in high school and I had only a few friends, but at Brandeis I felt part of a larger group from the moment I arrived on campus. I think back fondly to all of the nights hanging out in Shapiro or Mod 32 until 3 AM (I can’t think of the last time I saw 3 AM) just having a great time doing nothing in particular. Looking back at it, it really was a magical time. Thanks to all my Brandeis friends for making it so great.

Life since Brandeis:
I live in the Albany area with my beautiful and talented wife Becca and my two brilliant sons, Ben (16) and Josh (13). I have taught middle school French and Spanish in the same school for the last 23 years, and I still like going to work every day. I enjoy my students more and more each year, and they never cease to amaze and entertain me. I use a cutting-edge method for language acquisition called TPRS (ask me about it!) and I have trained other teachers in the method. I continue to write music, and I have performed solo as well as playing guitar in different bands. Lately I also have gotten really into tennis. As a family, we love to travel, especially in France and Spain.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
For me, Brandeis is about the friendships that I made. I was very quiet in high school and I had only a few friends, but at Brandeis I felt part of a larger group from the moment I arrived on campus. I think back fondly to all of the nights hanging out in Shapiro or Mod 32 until 3 AM (I can’t think of the last time I saw 3 AM) just having a great time doing nothing in particular. Looking back at it, it really was a magical time. Thanks to all my Brandeis friends for making it so great.
Life since Brandeis:

I am older than the last time I wrote this and I may not be wiser. I have two kids (two girls, 10 and 14), a dog + one husband. I have different dog than I had at the last reunion, sadly, but fortunately, the same two kids and husband.

I shifted my work trajectory and now work as a survey researcher at a policy research organization.
Life since Brandeis:

I found a career in travel technology that has taken me to places I would never have imagined: Reykjavik, Addis Ababa, Bangalore. I have moved several times since 1991 - Miami, Sydney (Australia), Nice (France) and now Amsterdam. During my 7.5 years in France, I was able to become a French citizen which has opened up the EU to me for places to live and work.

A store in London that caters to my lifestyle

Some mighty big shoes to fill
Life since Brandeis:

Immediately after graduation, I remained in the Boston area to work as a college financial aid administrator, first at nearby Regis College and then later at Brandeis itself. After a few years, I went west to California to be with my then-boyfriend, now-husband Kenneth Wong ‘91, while he pursued doctoral studies in biomedical engineering at a joint UC Berkeley-UC San Francisco program. I continued to work in financial aid administration for a total of 11 years.

Soon after 9/11, we moved to Washington, DC for me to pursue a master of divinity degree at a small Roman Catholic school, Washington Theological Union. During those very happy years when Kenneth and I again lived in a student residence hall (!), we had our first child. Our son Simon is now 10.

We lived on the Georgetown University campus for two years while I worked as a campus ministry chaplain. We had our daughter, Monica, who is now 8. We needed more space and different work situations to better fit with our growing family, so in 2009 we moved to Northern Virginia where we bought our first house.

While our kids were young, I worked for five years in financial aid and student services at Virginia Theological Seminary, an Episcopal theological school, in order to combine my initial career in higher education with my theological studies in a family-friendly work environment that had moderate hours. With our kids now in elementary school, I left work to begin full-time doctoral studies in 2014.

I am currently studying public sociology at George Mason University, with a focus on the sociology of religion. Upon completion of this degree, I hope to work for the Catholic Church, either in congregational or diocesan leadership settings or in Catholic higher education or Catholic theological education.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

As a proud Brandeis alum, I tell people how I was exposed to an incredible faculty and a challenging academic program, but many of my strongest memories and where I did some of my most important learning were outside the classroom. As a Roman Catholic with little prior experience with Judaism, I am so grateful for the opportunity of being immersed in a predominantly Jewish community, living in the rhythms of the Jewish calendar (and the 10 minutes after the hour “Brandeis Standard Time”), participating at Jewish worship services, and having reflective conversations about religion with Jewish classmates. My extracurricular leadership roles in the Student Senate, Catholic Students Organization, the Archon, and Orientation ‘90, combined with my work-study job and eventual internship with the financial aid office, shaped me as a person and prepared me for a career in higher education.

My most interesting travel experience:

I had already lived in 4 different states by the time I enrolled at Brandeis, and I’ve now crossed the country by car twice since for moves and lived in two additional states. My domestic travels (and marrying a Southerner!) have brought me to most of the United States, but I am profoundly blessed and shaped in my post-Brandeis life by the opportunity to have visited two very personally relevant international destinations. In 2004, while I was studying for a master of divinity degree, my husband Kenneth went to Rome for a conference and I joined him to explore the Vatican (we saw Pope John Paul II from 4 feet away just six months before he died) and Franciscan holy sites in Assisi. In 2014, while working for an Episcopal seminary, I joined several of its priesthood students on a 2-week study tour of Israel that allowed me to pilgrimage to sites in Jesus’ life and see in greater focus the political and religious struggles of this area.
Life since Brandeis:

I went straight to law school at N.Y.U. after Brandeis, and got my law degree in 1994.

I spent several years thereafter working in the legal services division of a now-defunct refugee resettlement agency based in New York City known as the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA). This consisted of everything from representing applicants for asylum to helping people seek disability-based waivers for the citizenship civics exam.

I jumped over to the government sector in early 2001, when I began working in the Litigation Unit of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service. I still work for the agency that absorbed it, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I am in the middle of a temporary one-year assignment to the Government Information Law Division of DHS, which primarily entails work involving FOIA and Privacy Act issues.

I married Justin Levinson in 2004, and we have two sons. Malachi is 10, and Aaron just turned 7. They are an adventure in parenting that I would not trade for the world.

As of this submission, I’m scheduled to take a seminar to become certified as a parent member of IEP teams—that means that I’d guide and handhold other parents going through the process to get special education services and supports in NYC public schools.

I’ve done crazy stuff over the years like cruising the Nile in a steam paddleboat and donating bone marrow stem cells to a total stranger, but there’s no way to compact all the wonderful crazy into this format.

I have settled into a cheerful, steady, matronly person. People who have met me in more recent times do not believe me about having crewed an Elvis Costello concert. (Shout out to my Student Events folks!)

I am happy to still be in touch with so many of my Brandeis friends. I only wish I could see you in person more often.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

I loved the regular, weekly gathering in the Castle Commons for high nerd socializing, complete with Star Trek, pizza and strategy games. Shout out to Jeremy Goldman ‘91, who is keeping the gaming tradition alive in NYC.

My most interesting travel experience:

Junior year abroad really got me hooked on travel, especially travel on a shoestring. I haven’t kept it up so much since having kids, but look forward to going back to it when I reach the empty nest stage. Most “interesting”? That’s a hard choice. I’ll just pick an interesting example. I tried a temazcal ceremony (Mayan sweat lodge with chanting and such) at an off-the beaten path lodge in Tulum, Mexico. The “rooms” were thatched huts on the beach that had conch shells as shower heads, seriously. It was all fun until I got heatstroke. Luckily, the treatment from the local traditional healer was pretty consistent with what regular doctors would do, even if framed as “managing my energy”.

Gwen (Wendy) Leifer

Summer 2015 shot of the family
In 2012, I was privileged to help lead a group of educators on a trip to Poland and Israel. Many of the teachers in our program live very modestly in smaller towns and communities and for some this was their first opportunity to travel outside of the United States. One is a member of the Blackfeet tribe; another is originally from Rwanda. Sharing this journey with such a diverse and thoughtful group of friends and colleagues was a deeply meaningful experience.

Life since Brandeis:
Since graduating from Brandeis, I received a PhD in English and a certificate in Women’s Studies from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York as well as a certificate from the International Trauma Studies Program. While working toward my degree, I taught at Hunter College and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and loved working with the students at those schools, where a single class might represent twenty different countries of origin. For the past ten years, I’ve served as Associate Director of the Holocaust Educators Network, a professional development organization for middle school, high school, and college faculty. We hold a two-week summer seminar in New York City for teachers from across the country and oversee summer programs in twelve other states. I am thankful for this engaging and meaningful work, which has allowed me to meet people and travel to places that would otherwise have remained completely outside of my experience.

It’s been important for me to stay active in the classroom, and for nearly a decade I’ve taught at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University, an interdisciplinary program where undergraduate students devise their own majors. I have also volunteered as chair of the Adult Education committee at my temple since 2012. After nearly two years of study I also completed an adult bat mitzvah there last May. Being an adult learner has been invigorating and has offered an important way to stay connected to my students’ experience.

I’m writing this from the house I’ve lived in since 1999, a place that has truly become my home, where my husband and I held our wedding in the backyard and where we brought our daughter home from the hospital. My travels have brought me to the glaciers of the Canadian Rockies and Patagonia; now, we are busy keeping up with a first grader and enjoying the community involvement that brings. Life is fuller and far richer than I could have imagined as an undergraduate. I feel tremendously fortunate and grateful for the ways in which Brandeis helped to prepare me for what was to come.

A Brandeis highlight: playing at Carnegie Hall

My most interesting travel experience:
In 2012, I was privileged to help lead a group of educators on a trip to Poland and Israel. Many of the teachers in our program live very modestly in smaller towns and communities and for some this was their first opportunity to travel outside of the United States. One is a member of the Blackfeet tribe; another is originally from Rwanda. Sharing this journey with such a diverse and thoughtful group of friends and colleagues was a deeply meaningful experience.

Learning to ski last winter
Life since Brandeis:
My professional life since Brandeis has been a straight line toward becoming a high-stakes business litigator based in Washington, D.C. After graduating from Harvard Law School, I clerked for a federal appeals court judge in D.C. Then I spent nine formative practice years at the old-line D.C. law firm Covington & Burling. In 2004, I moved with my mentor to McDermott Will & Emery, becoming head of the firm’s D.C. Trial practice. Then I was recruited away and since 2011 have been a partner at Vinson & Elkins, another large international law firm. During my career I have tried cases and argued appeals in courts across the country, defended against huge multi-district class actions, and been lead counsel to a wide variety of clients.
Whatever professional success I have achieved is far less important to me than my personal and family life. I have been married for 18 years and have two wonderful daughters. I met my wife Melissa -- who is also a lawyer -- in D.C. in July 1996. We were married in March 1998. Then we became parents and our lives changed completely. We had Alexa (“Lexi”) in June 2004 and Sloane in June 2007. They keep me grounded and put my professional commitments into a totally different perspective, as I strive to achieve that mythical “balance” between work and family. We live in the D.C. suburb of Potomac, Maryland.

Life lessons learned at Brandeis:
Brandeis inspired me to change my trefe ways and become kosher as a sophomore. That was a major life change. I have done my best to stick with it ever since, and my wife and I have raised our daughters that way as well.
Sharing a Ziv suite with six wonderful ladies!

I had a studio art class directly before my Politics of SE Asia class with Prof. Hindley, (over the Rabb steps on the other side of campus if you recall), and inevitably ended up to his class late, breathless, and struggling with a giant sketch pad.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

I had a studio art class directly before my Politics of SE Asia class with Prof. Hindley, (over the Rabb steps on the other side of campus if you recall), and inevitably ended up to his class late, breathless, and struggling with a giant sketch pad.

Life since Brandeis:

I’ve had the good fortune to travel around the world in my role as Sponsored Programs project manager for AFS-USA, a leading student exchange organization. I work specifically on alumni programming for a US State Department program that brings high-school students from predominantly Muslim countries to the US to live with American families for a year. I’ve been honored to work with these amazing young people on service project development, social entrepreneur training, project management training and other programming when they return to their home countries. My job has taken me to Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, Thailand, Morocco, Tunisia, Australia and Russia.

Back in NYC I’m enjoying watching my 2 nephews grow up and still trying to see as much live music and as many films as I can! I’m also slightly addicted to social media, particularly twitter, so it’s a good thing I use it quite a lot in my professional role (@NancyAFSUSA).
Life since Brandeis:

How did 25 years go by? It’s hard to believe it’s been that long, and yet so much has changed since then. I’ve been working at Brandeis for the past eight years, which is something that I could not have imagined when we graduated. I’m currently the Associate Director for Career Services in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS). My office provides the full range of career services and employer outreach for about 40 different graduate programs. I work with Masters, PhDs and alumni from GSAS.

After Brandeis I moved to Athens, Georgia where I started graduate school at The University of Georgia. I completed my M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs in 1994. After that I worked for a year at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA before moving back to New England where I’ve primarily worked in college and university career services, including Emerson College, Framingham State University, Quinsigamond Community College, and now Brandeis.

My husband David Levine is originally from White Plains, NY and attended Washington University in St. Louis, as well as the Culinary Institute of America (he’s great in the kitchen!) He currently works for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. We got married in 1998 in Cambridge, Mass and then lived in Brookline, MA for a bit before moving to Ashland, MA. We have two wonderful sons, Matthew (16) and Nate (13). Nate became a Bar Mitzvah this past April. The boys keep us very busy, but in a good way. Matthew is a high school sophomore who is involved with concert band, robotics team, math team and will be attending WPI’s Frontiers pre-college summer program in July. Nate is a 7th grader and is busy with cross-country, spring track, concert band, and in the summer attends URJ Six Points Sci-Tech Academy summer camp.

I think that gives some of the highlights of the past 25 years. I have fond memories of my time at Brandeis and hope everyone is doing well!

Sue (Goren) Levine
Stephen A. Lippman

Life since Brandeis:
For the past 10 years, I have worked as a librarian at Bank of America, performing business research. Previously, I worked as an academic and public librarian. I also worked as a market research analyst. In my free time, I studied comedy writing, discovered great music, and hiked many trails in the New York area. I earned two Master's degrees, one in Business Administration and the other in Library and Information Science.

What I share with people about Brandeis:
At Brandeis, I discovered my passion for research. When I studied abroad for a semester, I recognized how hard I had worked at Brandeis and that college life should consist of more than studying all the time.
Life since Brandeis:
I have been married for 16 years and have three children, Shanthan (14), Prashanth (8) and Shamini (7).
I attended the University of Miami School of Law and have been practicing Immigration Law in South Florida for over 15 years.
I coach my children’s soccer and basketball teams.
My firm’s website is mahendranlaw.com.

Life lessons learned at Brandeis:
I’ve met my closest friends in life while I attended college.

My most interesting travel experience:
Last summer my family visited Machu Picchu, Peru. Truly one of the most beautiful and spiritual places on this planet.

Machu Picchu,
Peru 7/4/2015

Family Soccer Photograph

Miami Hurricane Family
My greatest achievements:

My son is my greatest achievement (as much as one’s child can be considered an achievement). Successfully running a biostatistics department at both a contract research organization and at a pharmaceutical company are also high on the list.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

I think I would take some different classes than I did. There are subject areas that I would have liked to explore that I did not. I would also get more involved in clubs that interest me.

Ari D. Marcus

Beth, Joseph, and I a few years ago

Beth and Joseph

Beth and I

Joseph getting ready for his world tour
Life since Brandeis:
I married my college sweetheart, Glen (class of ’90) and became a psychologist. We have two boys. I can’t believe my oldest is in college. I find myself thinking about my years at Brandeis more now that I hear about some of his classes and college experiences.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
Laughing so hard as I walked through campus with a Burger King crown on my head to meet Glen for Screw Your Roommate (our first date).

What I share with people about Brandeis:
I talk about how at Brandeis we were encouraged to share our thoughts in class discussions and they were valued rather than being lectured to all of the time. I also describe how the professors really made an effort to know their students which was made possible by the small class sizes. My friends at other schools did not have that kind of experience.

Judi Markowitz (Goldenberg)

I married my college sweetheart, Glen (class of ’90) and became a psychologist. We have two boys. I can’t believe my oldest is in college. I find myself thinking about my years at Brandeis more now that I hear about some of his classes and college experiences.

David’s Bar Mitzvah
Life since Brandeis:

After graduating from Brandeis, I studied Optometry at the Illinois College of Optometry. I briefly moved back to Boston. I have since lived in Missouri, Minnesota, and New Jersey. I have been a practicing Optometrist for the last 20 years. I recently moved back to my childhood home town of Miami. I am a single parent of a 13 year old boy. Other than work, he has been my main focus. I keep in touch with quite a few friends from my Brandeis days and look forward to the chance of making more connections.
My best Brandeis memories were from time spent with friends, whether hanging out in the dorms, doing lunch or dinner together, getting ice cream at Chumleys, socializing at the Stein, or going to parties. From East to Massell to off-campus fun, I was blessed with awesome people throughout the 4 years. There’s nothing like living together to create good memories! ...too many to recount here :) 

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

My wishes for the future are simple--having good times with family & friends, making a difference with the work I do with students & colleagues, spending a good bit of time outdoors, traveling when possible, and eventually paring down all the stuff that seems to pile up.

My hopes to accomplish, see or become in the next 25:

I taught elementary school in MA for a few years, fell in love, moved to PA & went to grad school. I earned my Ph.D. in English & taught at Marywood University in Scranton, PA for 11 years. I’ll be chairing the English Department at Pace University in Pleasantville, NY beginning September 2016. I have a 16-year old daughter, a 13-year old son, a hot husband, and a dog that is so ugly she’s cute. I had a blast at the 2011 Brandeis reunion!
Brandeis opened up many doors for me. It was a tough time personally, but the connections I made there are very special and many of the professors I had made lasting impressions.

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My most interesting travel experience:
The best trip I ever took was a trip to South Africa to visit a very good friend from Brandeis. However, the funniest trip I ever took was with a friend to Greece. We took a ferry over to Santorini and were assured that we could find a hotel once we arrived. When we docked, along the beach there was a large group of people looking to rent out their rooms. They surrounded us, two women traveling alone, and tried to entice us. My travel companion, at one point, got very nervous and turned around to face me. Her backpack caught the front button of a woman in her mid to late 60s and tore her blouse open. Suddenly this group of people turned to an angry mob, yelling at us in Greek. After what seemed like many minutes, a man grabbed us and ran us to safety and we stayed at his hostel for the rest of the week, unscathed.

Life since Brandeis:
I have been blessed with incredible careers and an amazing family since graduating from Brandeis. After graduation, I worked as a High School Social Studies/ Psychology Teacher for 10 years, traveled the world and coached volleyball at Simmons College. I then left education and became a Technology Recruiter, met my husband, had three daughters and three dogs. I now work at UHG/Optum part-time as a Technology Recruiter and also run a Wine Tasting business on the side. I have been blessed with a position where I can be a mom and a professional and have a really great balance of both. I still volunteer in the public schools, helping high school students with their college applications and also volunteer in my kids’ classrooms. I run the Boys and Girls Club volleyball program for 3-5th graders and look forward to playing volleyball this summer. My husband Keith finished his first Ironman last October and I plan to continue to do sprint triathlons. I feel very fortunate in my life thus far.

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I would love to shout out to the girls from “Mod 1” (Randi, Stephanie, Wendy, Anissa, and Lori). Also shout out to Jessica Berman, Jessica Simon, Rachel Feldman, Beth Anderson and Amy (Schomer) Greenbaum.

Life since Brandeis:
After graduating Brandeis, I moved to California to study at Stanford University’s Hopkins Marine Station. After completing my Ph.D., I moved to southern California to do research at U.S.C. and married Scott (class of 1992). We now have a 12-year old daughter and a 10-year old son, and I am a full time faculty at a local community college where I teach biology and anatomy and physiology. I love being a band mom, robotics mom, and track-cycling mom. My schedule is busy during the school year, but I am lucky to have summers off work to travel, hike, read, bicycle, and visit Disneyland!
Life since Brandeis:
   Graduated from NYU Law School, currently a partner at Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP. Happily unmarried to Jennifer Colyer and living in NYC.
Life lessons learned at Brandeis:

One of the biggest life-lessons I learned at Brandeis is to press beyond first-impressions. I used to see this tall depressed looking guy wandering almost aimlessly around campus. He had long hair, which covered nearly his entire face; pierced ear, and wearing a rastifarian hat. If you had told me then that this man, Steve Treiman, would later become my best friend, my best man, and truly one of the best individuals I have ever known, I would have told you that you were crazy! You never get a second chance to make a first impression, that’s true, but give yourself a chance to let others make more impressions on you. Otherwise, you may be missing out on some of the best things and people in life!

Life since Brandeis:

After graduation, I did a stint with Teach For America, which placed me in Pasadena, CA. During that first year, I received a calling to pastoral ministry, and I have served in local church ministry since 1993. I graduated with a Masters in Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1996. Ordained in 1999, I launched a new ministry called Community Church at Holliston (CCH). Beginning with 5 college students, CCH is now a multi-ethnic and multi-generational ministry with over 250 members in the heart of Pasadena. I have served on several national boards of ministry over the years, and just finished a term as the President of Nexus UMC (a United Methodist initiative for Next Generation ministries).

I met my wife, Linda, in early 1992, and we were married the same year. We have lived in South Pasadena for our entire 23 years of marriage. Our oldest child, Matthew, is finishing up his first year at UC/Berkeley (his mother’s alma mater for whom she played tennis). My second child, Samantha, a sophomore in high school, is an aspiring journalist/writer, and has already had several articles posted in several online publications. My youngest child, Carissa, is following in her mother’s footsteps and is quickly rising among the ranks of junior tennis. Our dog, Sonny, is a 9 year-old labrador and does what dogs generally do.

Having grown up in Newton, MA, I’m still a big Red Sox and Bruins fan, and thanks to the wonders of technology, I still catch nearly every game in one form or another. I rarely visit Boston, but whenever I do, I usually swing by Brandeis to look at all the wonderful new facilities that I missed out on (We didn’t even have a gym our entire senior year)! But I also reminisce about our KSA and BAASA meetings, and the life-long friendships I formed. It’s hard to believe that was 25 years ago.
I have made lifelong friends at Brandeis. Life since Brandeis:

First of all...has it been 25 years since I graduated from Brandeis? That’s not possible.

I lived in Brighton, MA, Belmont, MA and now Franklin, MA. In the years since graduating, I have made very solid friends. In Franklin, I have met a bunch of folks who enjoy the things I do...playing volleyball and riding our motorcycles. They are down-to-earth and real and we would do anything for each other. These are the friendships I cherish.

I married a great woman named Carol, who gained her PhD in Psychology and currently runs her own therapy practice. We were married in 2003 and now have two beautiful boys: Jack, born in 2006 and Tyler, born in 2009. We met through JDate and have built a great life together.

As a dad, I try to be as involved with their lives as I can. I have coached basketball, baseball, and soccer and very much enjoy coaching them and their friends. My boys are so important to me...and I can’t imagine my life without them. They bring me so much joy, laughter, and happiness.

Professionally, I worked as a learning and leadership development professional for many years with various companies like Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Monster Worldwide, EMC Corporation, Hookmedia and Biogen. However, in 2015, I launched my own consulting practice which focuses on learning and leadership. I have several great clients and look forward to building my business.

I look forward to seeing what the next 25 years holds for us.

Carol and Jack.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

I have made lifelong friends at Brandeis.

Life lessons learned at Brandeis:

Work hard, learn, and have a good time.

Jack
and
Tyler
at
the
beach.

Carol and
Jack.

Love taking motorcycle trips with friends.
Life since Brandeis:

After graduating, I moved to New York where I attended Columbia University School of Social Work and earned a Master’s in Social Work. I later received a Master’s in Public Health from Brooklyn College. Most of my career has been spent working in hospitals. I currently work in the emergency room of New York Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital. Palliative Care and end of life care are my passion.

I married Babu Philip in 1996 whom I met in Social Work school. We have a seventeen year old son who is headed to Swarthmore College in the fall. I love to travel and have traveled to Armenia, Austria, the Bahamas, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Georgia, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico Portugal Slovakia and Sweden.

I have been living in Brooklyn, NY for the past twenty years and would be happy to see anyone who passes through.
Life since Brandeis:
What to say?!! 25 years...I’m enjoying living in West Hartford with Audrey Sobel ’91 and our three boys. I still teach international relations at the University of Connecticut.

My hopes to accomplish, see or become in the next 25:
See my kids grow into adults. Visit more places with my love, Audrey. Write more. Hope for a better world where cooperation triumphs over hatred.
Life since Brandeis:

After graduating Brandeis in May 1991, I went to Israel to build homes for Russian and Ethiopian immigrants, who were arriving during the Summer and Fall of 1991. In Israel, I met Jane, and we fell in love. We were married in Wisconsin in August 1994. We have two (2) amazing children, Max (15) and Flora (13). They are both brilliant and beautiful, and they truly make the world a better place. We live in Pembroke Pines, FL. I obtained my law degree from the University of Miami School of Law in 1995. I am now a litigation partner residing in the Fort Lauderdale office of the international law firm, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

As an attorney specializing in employment matters, I have conducted over 350 depositions and over 20 trials, including jury trials in federal and state court. I am also in charge of the associate mentor program in Fort Lauderdale, which allows me the wonderful opportunity to develop the young attorneys. In 2011 and 2012, I was named a Legal Elite by Florida Trend, which recognizes the top 1.8% of Florida’s lawyers. I have also been listed in Super Lawyers magazine as a Florida Super Lawyer since 2013. In June 2013, I was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in a swearing-in ceremony attended by other graduates of Brandeis.

Since 2006, I have have travelled to many wonderful locations with my family on vacation: Yellowstone, Niagara Falls, North Captiva Island, India, Switzerland, Austria, England, France, Costa Rica and Israel. On the trips to Switzerland and India, we were joined by Raj Mundra and his beautiful family. I met Raj as a freshman at Brandeis in 1987 (we were hall mates) and he remains today my best friend in the world.

In September 2013, my son Max became a Bar Mitzvah. In August 2015, my daughter Flora became a Bat Mitzvah. In November 2013, I went to Darmstadt, Germany with my father and sister, and saw the home where my father, Peter Ranis (Class of 1958), lived as a young child. Later, when we travelled to Israel in the Summer of 2014, we were joined by my father, who had never visited Israel before. It was such a profound time to be in Israel, which is truly an oasis in the desert. This past summer we also celebrated my father’s 80th birthday and my sister’s 50th birthday at our home in Pembroke Pines. It was a wonderful and impactful celebration attended by many friends and family, including my mother, Gloria Ranis, and my wife’s father, Max Sinagub.

From the moment I arrived at Brandeis in 1987, my life has been filled with amazing moments and wonderful people. I am truly grateful for the education and opportunities I received at Brandeis.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

I tell them that Brandeis was a wonderful university that allowed me to grow in so many ways. Brandeis also introduced me to Raj Mundra, who remains today my best friend. For that alone, I feel a sense of indebtedness to Brandeis. I also share the story of how, as a senior in the Spring of 1991, I almost slipped on a pamphlet in the mailroom. When I picked up the pamphlet, it was about volunteering to build homes in Israel in the Summer of 1991. And because I decided to volunteer for Israel, I met Jane, who was also a participant in the program. Jane and I would fall in love during the Summer of 1991 and we just celebrated our 21st wedding anniversary!

When I speak to my children about Brandeis, I tell them that Brandeis was a place where I met lifelong friends, developed a love for learning, and began to believe in my potential.
At Brandeis, like many college students, I was looking for myself, but I didn’t really know how to do that. In school, I was drawn to science and math classes. But, it turns out, the subjects I hated in my younger years are now the ones that I find myself drawn to. I fulfilled my history requirement during senior year. I put it off as long as possible. But, now, I find myself drawn to current political debate and policy and wish I had more background and history to pull from. What would I do differently? I would take as many classes from different schools and departments as possible. I would embrace the distribution requirements as early as possible and see them as a way to learn more about myself.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

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What I share with people about Brandeis:

Daniel and I both had the experience of leaving Seattle and flying across the country to attend Brandeis. We each have 2 younger siblings who also studied in the Northeast. All 6 of us are back in the area and raising our kids within 20 minutes of the homes we grew up in and their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. (Something that we didn’t have as kids because our parents relocated to the PNW from the Midwest and New York.) I strongly encourage my kids and their friends to take the opportunity to spread their wings in college. Live someplace new. Meet new people. Explore the world. I am so appreciative of my time at Brandeis. I have friends all over. The geography, climate, people, history, and opportunities, plus the vocabulary - did you ever order a milkshake in Boston? - and accents are so different. But, I am so much more appreciative of the things that my hometown offers.
Life since Brandeis:
After graduation I had planned to return to Tibet where I spent some time junior year, so enrolled in an intensive Tibetan language summer program at the University of Virginia. Once there, I ended up enrolling in the graduate school and obtained my masters degree in Religious Studies, focusing on Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. I realized, however, that my plan to enter academics was not going to be fulfilling for me, and decided to go to medical school. The only problem was that while at Brandeis I had only taken astronomy for poets in order to meet my science requirement. So I ended up returning to Brandeis where I was in the first class of the post-bac pre-med program and completed the required courses for med school. During this time I was also working at a school for autistic children, and then as an EMT. I met my wonderful wife Priscilla after answering an ad at Brandeis for a roommate, who happened to be a friend of hers from high school. We then moved to Worcester while I attended the University of Massachusetts Medical School. I completed a residency in both pediatrics and internal medicine and now practice primary care for patients of all ages. We have three amazing children and make our home in Newton, Massachusetts. I also like sunsets and quiet walks in the rain. Or the beach. Doesn’t matter.
Life since Brandeis:
I needed a few more years to discover that I was made to be a High School English teacher. I have needed many more years to figure out that my other goal (rock ‘n roll, baseball playing astronaut) probably isn’t going to happen. So I’m still an English teacher. I have added a couple of degrees, spent some time in administration, developed a taste for mildly spicy food, and helped raise 2 beautiful and strong young women (h/t to my help mate Julie, ’92). But I still wake up in the morning knowing that I am going to teach a bunch of high school students about the hidden mysteries of the predicate nominative.

My hopes to accomplish, see or become in the next 25:
Is there still time to become a rock ‘n roll, baseball playing astronaut?
Because that.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:
I would pump more money into research projects which help people save their hair from falling out. This is a scourge of my generation. Or at least my own life.
I developed a sense of self-confidence at Brandeis. I became aware of a lot more. Since then, I have continued to grow, but all of my growth is on the shoulders of my college years.
So what do I wish I knew back then? Lottery numbers maybe? Other than that, I’m good, thanks.
Life since Brandeis:
Since Brandeis, I married an amazing woman that I went to sleep away camp with and we have 3 incredible kids! I was a corporate lawyer for many years specializing in private equity and venture capital transactions. Following that I went into business with a friend in the nursing home industry and now our business has expanded to be a major force in the skilled nursing and long term care industry. It has been a fun and wild ride since my days in Waltham!

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
One of my funniest memories happened when I was participating in a charity dance marathon at Brandeis. About 15 hours into it, Alwina Bennett, who was in charge of Res Life, asked me if I could give an “emergency tour” to a group of VIPs that showed up unexpectedly. I agreed, but informed the group that I needed to keep moving and that they would be responsible to turn me in if I didn’t keep dancing. I gave the tour in gym shorts and t-shirt but they loved it. They thought it was a great tour and every time I stopped for even 10 seconds, they all started shouting at me. On the way out, one of them told me that the reason they continued to donate to Brandeis was due to the enthusiasm of the student body to do good work for the school and that I was a great example that day. I don’t know if that was true or not, but it made for a great story and I hope they are still donating!!
Life since Brandeis:

Married for almost 13 years, my wife Lisa and I have two girls Sophie (10; finishing 4th grade) and Gabrielle (8; finishing 2nd grade). I’ve been out in the Bay Area for 16 years and can’t imagine living anywhere else. For the last four, I’ve been the VP of Marketing (overseeing Marketing as well as Customer Care) at 23andMe. Prior to that, I spent 11 years at Netflix (2001-2012) where I led Online Marketing globally as the subscriber base grew from 300,000 to 30 million. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have spent the last 15 years working for such cutting edge companies making a massive difference in their respective industries. Sorry I couldn’t make it back for the reunion. It would be great to catch up if anyone makes it out to the Bay Area.
Life since Brandeis:

Since Brandeis, I have received my masters in social work from New York University. I worked for several years as a clinical social worker in New York City at Bellevue Medical Center. In September, 1995, I married Ken Samuel ’90 and we moved to Los Angeles. I became licensed in California and have worked in a variety of settings as a licensed clinical social worker including a managed care company, a hospital, an outpatient clinic, day treatment facilities, and private practice. Recently, I have been giving presentations and parent workshops on the topic of teasing versus bullying in elementary and middle school settings. I also have a blog focusing on parenting issues and returning back to work after taking time to raise children.

Additionally, Ken and I have two daughters - Sara, 11 years old and Betsy, 8 years old. My best job is being a mom to these two girls and our 13 year old Miniature Schnauzer. We try to visit family and friends every chance we get; however, since we live in a place that is usually warm many come to us.
Life since Brandeis:

After graduating from Brandeis, I lived in the Boston suburbs, working as a software developer at several companies including Lotus Development and IBM. In 1997 I moved to Manhattan, where I met Rina Cohen - sister of Neil Cohen '92 and sister-in-law of Sherry Marcus Cohen '91. We married in 2000 and now live on the Upper West Side, where we are raising three children: Aviva (12), Jonah (10), and Natan (4). I am employed as a Senior Architect at financial services company TIAA, and Rina is the Interim Director of Education at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in Manhattan. Although Rina and I both grew up in the suburbs, we enjoy the challenge of raising a family in New York City, and we are very happy to see our children thriving in the city environment and becoming more independent as they mature. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our daughter Aviva becoming a Bat Mitzvah in May of this year.

My most interesting travel experience:

My family visits Israel every other summer to visit relatives and friends. Our last trip was in July 2014, arriving right before Hamas escalated rocket attacks from Gaza. We were relatively safe in Jerusalem, but reacting to air raid sirens and running for shelter became a daily occurrence. Sadly, on July 21, we learned that Rina’s cousin, 1st Lieutenant Yuval Hyman Z”L, was killed in action in Operation Protective Edge. We were able to attend his funeral and shiva. Nearly every community in Israel was affected by the conflict, and the sadness and stress was evident everywhere we went. Still, we were glad to be there during this time. We made new friends and reconnected with old friends, including Hope Levav ’90 and her wonderful family. We are planning to return to Israel this summer, and my wish is that it will be a safe and peaceful trip.
Life since Brandeis:

I've lived in Jacksonville, Florida for the last fifteen years with my husband Scott, and my daughters Amanda and Laina. Amanda is a freshman at the University of Miami – I tried to interest her in Brandeis but no luck – and Laina is sixteen, so I still have time to convince her that Brandeis is an amazing place to spend four years! I still keep in touch with friends from the class of ’91 and ’90. Truly, there are no friends like old friends and I feel lucky that I got to meet such wonderful people at Brandeis.
Life since Brandeis:

Jeremy Pressman and I have been married for 22 years (that certainly makes me feel old!). We have three boys (ages 16, 14, 10) who bring joy, energy, laughs, imagination, and of course worries into our lives. Our spare time is busy with soccer and basketball games, piano and saxophone lessons, homework, Driver’s Ed, tennis, and occasional hikes and bike rides. I work at Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford, where the boys also attend(ed) school. We recently celebrated my parents’ 50th Anniversary with a family trip to Panama. It was wonderful to explore the country together; a major highlight was watching our kids as they joked and spent time with their grandparents.
Life since Brandeis:

After graduation I worked in Japan for 3.5 years. I returned to the US to graduate school and then work in NY in the field of international education. I left the workforce when my first child was born, but have recently begun working again with NY’s farmers markets and educational outreach. I am married to Michael Turner ('90) and we have three children.
I loved living in the castle and hope they figure out a way to keep it.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
I loved living in the castle and hope they figure out a way to keep it.

My most interesting travel experience:
Bali was awesome.

Since graduating, I lived in Japan, travelled around Asia and taught English for 4 years. When I returned, I worked at a start up and decided to get my masters in business and technology. I have been working in the field ever since.
I am divorced and blessed with 2 boys, Joshua (8 years old) and Zachary (6 years old).
I treasure my time and friends from Brandeis and send my regards to everyone.
In the summer of 2007, I visited India, where my husband was taking photographs of Hindi temples. It was a fascinating trip — the sights, sounds, and people were like nothing I'd ever seen before.

Life since Brandeis:

After careers in Jewish community work and stand-up comedy, I finally discovered that teaching high school is where, to paraphrase a quote inconclusively attributed to Aristotle, “My talents and the needs of the world cross.” This fall, I will begin my ninth year teaching English at Fontainebleau High School in Mandeville, Louisiana, which is located approximately forty-five minutes north of New Orleans. Aside from my teaching schedule (sophomore and senior English), I co-sponsor the campus creative writing club and coordinate writing field trips. In addition to writing with my students, I am working on a novel and some short stories, and am in the process of investigating low-residence Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing programs.

My husband and I are active members of a Jewish Mardi Gras Krewe (parading organization) called Krewe du Mishigas. We spend weekends in November through January/February creating a parade float. If you’re reading this and have no idea what I’m talking about, don’t worry – unless you’ve been in the area for Mardi Gras, it’s hard to wrap your brain around. Just trust me: the Mardi Gras celebrations you see on TV bear little resemblance to the way we do things down here!

In August 2012, my husband, who is a Full Professor of Art at Southeastern Louisiana University, worked on a large-scale community art project that was transported to the Black Rock Desert outside Reno, Nevada. Thus began our great Burning Man adventure. I have joined this social experiment/community/festival for three consecutive years, and it has been a truly valuable experience. If you look up “Burning Man Art 2015,” you’ll be able to find this year’s piece, “The Krewe of the Dusty Playa.”
Life since Brandeis:

Since graduating from Brandeis, I received my Master of Social Work degree and spent 16 years managing social science research projects at Northwestern University. Last year I moved to the research and policy institute Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago where I help state child welfare systems and private agencies implement and use an assessment tool. Spending my junior year in Australia gave me the travel bug, and in the last 25 years I have visited Cuba, Scandinavia, much of Western Europe, Morocco, Costa Rica, parts of South America and many of the United States. I am planning on Israel for my next trip. I have volunteered over the years and have recently started to volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters and hope to be matched with my “Little” any day now!

I hope to catch up with the following people at Reunion:

Over the years, my Brandeis friends have scattered around the country and the world. I am looking forward to seeing people who I have seen somewhat recently, like Ravi Pherwani, and Elisa Bolton, and those who I “see” on Facebook, like Steve Safren, Melissa Fox, Gena Lewis, Katie McCormick, Barrie Schmeltz and Alvin Marcovici. I also hope to see people like Monique Thormann, Jess Guite and many others!
Being a Mom to three amazing teenagers who are people so completely different from me and complex wonderful people.

On the Twenty-five years from now question.... I do hope to have had a strong impact on my work-world before retiring. Ultimately though, 25 from now I hope to be spending retirement in the company of my wife and by-then enjoying grandparenthood!

Life since Brandeis:

My family and I live in small central NJ home in a town that fits us well – walk-able downtown, very diverse and close to our large extended family. We live a happy, boisterous and busy life trying to balance work, home, three teenagers’ schedules and the trials and tribulations of Middle School and High School.

For personal stuff, please connect with me on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/randi.sumner

For professional stuff, please connect with me on LinkedIn and Twitter:
  https://www.linkedin.com/in/sumner
  https://twitter.com/RandiSumner

PS - I travel much more than I’d like for work so I still don’t know if I will make it to Reunion. I am hoping to because I would love to reconnect with so many of you and I would also love to show my family this place that had such an impact on who I am today!

2014: Another vacation family selfie!
Life since Brandeis:

I am married to a wonderful woman, Margaret, & we have a wonderful 9yo daughter, Shayna Elizabeth. I moved to Texas a few years after graduation and have lived in or near Austin most of the time since. I attended the University of Texas at Austin Masters School of Social Work from 1994 to 1996. I recently opened a private psychotherapy practice, Heart and Head Healing, where I mainly work with adolescents and adults. Check out my professional website at www.heartandheadhealing.com!

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

As the presidential primaries/caucuses are raging on currently, I have been thinking fondly of my work with my friends at Brandeis on the Paul Simon for President Campaign. I remember when Randi & Randy had to drive the "Bug" together because one had a sprained wrist & one didn’t know how to drive a manual. I didn’t know how to drive at all back then, LOL! Then the key broke in the car transmission! That was insane!!!

There are so many other memories as well, but that’s the one on my mind currently.

Life lessons learned at Brandeis:

Looking back at my Brandeis experience I think that the three most important things that I learned were to be an independent decision maker, to think critically, and to write well.
In the past few years I’ve managed to visit Cape Verde, Azerbaijan and Djibouti. But the most fun trip was last summer when the family had an apartment in Tel Aviv for three weeks. For a week we put the kids in surfing camp in the mornings and then spent afternoons tramping around the city. In the following weeks we explored more of the country, from Haifa to the Golan and the Dead Sea. We even stopped by Hebrew University where many of us spent some or all of our Junior years.

My most interesting travel experience:
In the past few years I’ve managed to visit Cape Verde, Azerbaijan and Djibouti. But the most fun trip was last summer when the family had an apartment in Tel Aviv for three weeks. For a week we put the kids in surfing camp in the mornings and then spent afternoons tramping around the city. In the following weeks we explored more of the country, from Haifa to the Golan and the Dead Sea. We even stopped by Hebrew University where many of us spent some or all of our Junior years.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:
Looking back at my college years I sometimes wish I had taken a wider range of classes - explored more. That’s not to say that I didn’t enjoy the courses I took. But maybe I could have traded some of those political science classes for more classes in art or philosophy or music.

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Life since Brandeis:
After graduation I spent two years working in politics in Washington DC then returned to California to attend law school at UCLA. I have been practicing law for 20 years now, for the past four years I’ve been a partner at Fox Rothschild. My practice is primarily focused on bankruptcy and litigation. I also co-chair the firm’s Israel practice which allows me to travel to Israel several times a year.

I met Debbie Raskowitz in the law school library during my 1L year. We started dating a year later and were married in 1997. Also a practicing attorney, Debbie works in-house at Citrix. We have two daughters, Adina (grade 7), who just had her Bat Mitzvah, and Raquel (grade 5). And two years ago we broke down and got the kids a dog - Teddy, a Goldendoodle. We continue to live in San Francisco, where we’ve been since returning to the Bay Area in 1996.

In 2002 I ran for County Supervisor. Fortunately for my marriage the insurgent campaign against an entrenched incumbent didn’t get much traction. Though I’ve continued to be engaged politically and civically, serving for the past fourteen years on the State Democratic Central Committee and for the past ten years on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

I am also active in the Jewish Community, serving on the board of the Bay Area’s JCRC and having previously chaired JPAC (the Jewish Community’s statewide lobbying organization in California) as well as the Wallenberg Jewish Democratic club.

When not working or engaged in community activities, my primary focus is on the family. Weekends are spent shuttling from dance lessons to soccer games and swim meets.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:
Looking back at my college years I sometimes wish I had taken a wider range of classes - explored more. That’s not to say that I didn’t enjoy the courses I took. But maybe I could have traded some of those political science classes for more classes in art or philosophy or music.
Life since Brandeis:

Life after school has been great. I lived in Chicago for a bit more than a decade where I got two masters degrees while working in Human Resources. I moved back to New York in 2004 and built a wonderful life in New Jersey with my wife (Merry Firschein, class of ’87) and our 4-legged child, Humphrey.

We spend a lot of time traveling as we possibly can and we’re both blessed that we’ve been able to see so many amazing places, from Santa Fe to the Italian Alps, Venice, Florence, Alaska, Israel to see Merry’s friends and family, and other trips throughout the US.

We also spend a LOT of time working on our house. It’s never really done and there’s always a new project, from simple gardening to ripping the kitchen apart and rebuilding it myself (the project slated for this Summer, just after reunion).

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

I think I’d probably have spent a LITTLE less time in the Student Events office. I figured out that my freshman year saw me spending 60 hours a week b/w hanging out in the office and going to events. That doesn’t leave a lot of time for pesky little things like classes.

I’d have spent more time trying to actually learn something from my professors. Oh well...that’s what grad school was for, I guess.

My most interesting travel experience:

My wife and I flew to Geneva, took a bus into France and spent 12 days walking around the Mont Blanc Massif with a dozen other people. It was AMAZING! Each day was between 6 and 10 hours of real hiking, but the views were INCREDIBLE! And so was the chocolate (a little bit every day, courtesy of our guides). And dinners were wonderful. We walked through France, into Italy, then Switzerland and then back into France. It really was the trip of a lifetime.
Life since Brandeis:

A world outside of Brandeis lacks the beautiful curly locks and darkly curvaceous figures and idealism in the communal halls of college living which I fell in love with then and miss so much today. This ascetic Catholic token squandered four virginal years in dry books at our Alma Mater seeking knowledge and fragments of wisdom which, irony of ironies, now seem not to matter much outside our ivory towers in a world of cold material pragmatism.

Journeys through Baltimore medical school and Pittsburgh residencies in real medicine have led to living a country doctor’s dream as a family physician in the beautiful little americana of Shelburne Falls. Here we accept everyone and work for free idealism where most of my friends and colleagues have lost their moral leadership of service and sacrifice by selling out to higher incomes and fancy living. Indeed these twenty five years have been a long and surprising road.

Among my many blessings are beautifully creative children, women who love me, a passion for boatbuilding and life on the waters, prescient insights in deconstructing modern medicine, surprising explorations in the anthropologies of human spirituality, a gift for the dark arts of photography, and an addiction to klieg lights when not descending to the dark side of Renaissance Faires and gifts for improvisational comedy. I say skip all of the youthful bacchanalias at Brandeis and the dreary grownup cocktail parties since. Give me any excuse to simply play when so many adults who praise childhood have forgotten how to see our wonderful world through childrens’ eyes.

As with all of my gifted classmates, I have also found food and shelter through positions on several community boards, a nurturing academic appointment at UMass Medical School, the opportunity to practice socialist management as CEO of Trailside Health, LLC, the responsibility as medical director for one of our nation’s first and most comprehensive OneCare pilot programs at Commonwealth Care Alliance, and the opportunity to serve as founder and director of Caring in Community, 501(c)3 in one of the funkiest loving little creative towns east of Cicely, Alaska.

To all of our mates we offer our hearts, our hopes and our hearth to any and all passing through our little peace of heaven.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

I would invite every friend and the remotest acquaintances of mine one-by-one out for coffee, wine, and a night on the town. The work can wait. Because life is so built on connections, we succeed from who we know much more than what we know. That is what I would do differently.

To every man and woman from whom I kept my feelings secret during those intense four years, I offer you my prayers that these 25 years of life and love have treated you even better than you could have ever imagined.

This also means I should probably have applied to Harvard as well.

My greatest achievements:

Avoiding the rat race.

Definitely.

’cause I’ve got a rhythm no one can hear.
Life since Brandeis:

Brandeis was a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far... actually, to be honest, I haven’t been able to visit since graduating. I try to keep up with alumni postings and annual appeals, but life is always busy. I often wonder if I am using time as effectively as I could. Two children keep me busy, as does married life. Eden, 14, is a great student, beautiful, and so insightful. Luke, 10, reminds me of that kid from the movie “Jerry Maguire” because he is always offering factoids he has picked up, usually from the internet doing searches he is too young for. Kellie and I married during the 4th year of medical school at University of Texas at Houston, my only four years away from California since graduating. I finished a pediatric residency, followed by a critical care fellowship, and worked at a large tertiary hospital for about 12 years since training. I now work at a smaller hospital closer to home to be able to spend more time with family. Two dogs and briefly a bearded dragon round out the mix. There are still a lot of things I want to get done, the bucket list needs some working on. But as fellow Brandeis alum Kil Joon (Sam) Park always said, “Steve, our stock is still rising.”

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

I would have figured out a way to connect with people better. I was fairly shy and introverted at Brandeis. But friendships make up a great deal of our lives and are what help make us human. I wish I had spent more time connecting with others.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

I don’t speak about my time at Brandeis that often, but when I do, it often revolves around a few central core topics. I remember being an R.A. at Ziv and the Castle. I remember having to break up some parties and deal with a horribly leaking ceiling senior year in the Castle. I speak of time, lots of time, spent at the far west side of campus by the art buildings, working on art into the evening. I remember seeing presidential candidates speak, controversial topics discussed, and rallies attending and Brandeis and Washington D.C. I felt like I was part of a group that wanted to right wrongs and bring change. College idealism at its best.
Life since Brandeis:

After bouncing back and forth between Boston and Seattle a few times, I landed in Seattle permanently in 1995 – the call of the mountains was too strong! While looking for a “real” job, I worked on season 4 of the Bill Nye, the Science Guy television program, collecting supplies for the home demo segments and wrangling wardrobe for the cast. Alas, interning for public television didn’t really pay the bills so I accepted a position at a small higher education software company as a temporary receptionist. Twenty years and multiple mergers later, I’m still there! Shortly after starting, I took an opportunity to move into software support, and through the years I have done release management, training, software development, quality assurance testing and software installations. The company is now known as Ellucian, and I am the Senior Business Analyst for Degree Works, a tool to help students complete their degree requirements on time. I work with clients and product managers to define application requirements and ensure that those features are implemented by the developers – I enjoy my job immensely!

My non-work time is spent traveling, hiking or skiing in the great Pacific Northwest and ringing handbells. Handbells is an interest that started as a child and then developed into a passion as an adult. I have been ringing with Bells of the Sound, a community ensemble based in Seattle, since 1999 and currently serve as President. We have recorded four CDs throughout the years, toured extensively throughout Alaska, Oregon and Washington, and produce at least 15 concerts annually. I was selected to be part of an all-star group that represented the United States at the 2012 International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool, England, and currently serve as a Member at Large on the National Board for Handbell Musicians of America.

I’m currently living in West Seattle and share my home with Maaike, a sweet, little black cat. I love to travel and fortunately both my job and handbells provide opportunities to explore US cities and other countries. I try to leave no stone unturned in the places I visit and live by the motto “I can sleep when I’m dead!” I also enjoy spending a day either climbing up a mountain or skiing down one as fast as I can, riding a roller coaster or taking in a baseball game, especially the Seattle Mariners.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

Some of my greatest memories of Brandeis are of my experiences on the crew team. Joining Brandeis Crew was certainly something that pushed me to the limits of what I thought I was capable of doing, and I think I was able to draw on that when I returned to running several years ago and did a few half marathons. But I also remember my supportive team members, the adventures we had, and the beauty of being out on the river as the sun is starting to rise. Good times!

My most interesting travel experience:

I’ve had the opportunity to travel throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, France, England, Ireland, Scotland and India. All were great places to visit and offered many exciting experiences. But one of the most special memories I have is of performing a handbell concert in Cathédrale Sainte-Croix d’Orléans in the Loire Valley of France. The sound of our music filling this gorgeous, massive space brought me to tears several times, and I will never forget the sound of our final chord as it rolled though the eaves of the cathedral.
Life since Brandeis:

How to sum up 25 years?! I began working right out of Brandeis at a residential treatment facility for children. It really began to shape what I wanted in a career and gave me some baseline experience at some of the toughest issues our children face. After a year or so, I went to BU School of Social Work and graduated in ’94 with a MSW. Since then, I’ve worked in a variety of settings including hospitals, non profits, schools etc. I met my husband, Adam, in ’97 and we got married in ’99. We moved to Buffalo, NY shortly after getting married where I discovered my love of Wegmans grocery store as well as getting to live near the majestic Niagara Falls. We had our first son, Jared, in ’02 and then our son Ely in ’05. We then moved back to the Boston area in ’07 due to a job change. What we also decided to do was become foster parents. There are so many children without a safe home to live and we decided to provide that safe space. It has been amazing for ourselves as well as our children. We have had about 8 different kids come through our home. Some have stayed overnight and one stayed for 2 years. It has impacted our children in numerous ways. Jared became a Bar Mitzvah in June of ’15 and for his mitzvah project, raised money to create emergency backpacks for children taken in a rush and had nothing of their own when placed into foster care. He was even featured on the channel 7 news multiple times! Since then, he has done remote backpacks and Ely is doing a diaper drive at his school. We are so proud of their community awareness and desire to help. Currently, I am a program coordinator for EIPP, supporting pregnant women and following them for 1 year after birth. It is hard work and the issues raised are sometimes insurmountable, but I love doing what I do! I still cannot believe it’s been 25 years—feels like yesterday...
Life since Brandeis:

The big change that has occurred since our last reunion was moving from Chicago to sunny Palm Springs, California. My partner Brad and I will be celebrating 20 years together next year. Last year we adopted a Beagle/Basset Hound. His name is Bates and he's the best dog in the world. If you ever happen to be in the Coachella Valley, give me a ring!
Life since Brandeis:

600 words? So many, and so few, to sum up 25 years of life and living. With each passing year I look back at my Brandeis experience from a unique vantage point, reflecting on a different part of my formal and information education there. It was a shlep just getting to Brandeis – but damn, such a journey it’s been since then!

I have been a full-fledged Masshole since graduation, first in Waltham for 20 years, and now in Boston. After a stint working with individuals with developmental disabilities in residential settings, I have continued to be involved with this community as a guardian and advocate. For nearly twenty years I have worked as a real estate appraiser, in Massachusetts and elsewhere in New England. I have my certified residential license, and have earned by SRA designation from the Appraisal Institute, as well as an RAA as a member of the National Association of Realtors. I suppose it’s a real job, but getting to be nosy in strangers’ houses, with no two weeks the same – it has been a fun profession to be in, though not without its pressures, for sure. In addition, I hope to pursue a certification to teach English to speakers of other languages in the coming year.

My partner (The Artist) and I first met 13 years ago, and we have been enjoying dim sum across the US since then. Our recent top find: San Juan, Puerto Rico. Who knew?! We have also been spending time in Michigan, of all places, where most of my family now lives. I am most humbled and proud of my role as the good queer uncle and godfather to a whole brood of kids, from a nearly-one year old to a college junior who is pushing 21, with more on the way (I hope?). The joy, and passion, and love that I feel for all of them did surprise me at first: it was as if a biological switch had been turned on inside me, bringing forth skills and talents (and the ability to tolerate poop) that I didn’t know I had. These kids and their parents have specifically chosen me to be a cherished part of their families – something which I can never take for granted. Each one is full of so many talents and skills, and is perfect in every way (not that I’m biased or anything). They are all amazing, and I am extremely proud of who they are, and what they accomplish. And – if one or more of them decided to go to Brandeis, I wouldn’t complain.

Thanks to the miracle of Facebook I have reconnected with a number of our peeps, keeping up-to-date with their jobs, families, and life events. We may have had a shared experience, for up to four years, so many years ago, but we have all taken such interesting, winding, meaningful paths since them. Our lives since Brandeis have given witness to changes in the world – socially, technologically, environmentally, and in other world arenas. For me, my activities at Brandeis set the stage for my investment in the world around me – from my role in Triskelion (Queer Studies! Gay marriage!), to doing clinic defense, to experiencing the internet for the first time, and more. I am sure than any era is a good era, or at least better than the last. Nonetheless, for me, the world of today – my world of today – began at Brandeis.

My greatest achievements:

In no particular order:
-Not being totally bitter and jaded.
-Completing the Me’ah program through Hebrew College.
-Ownimg only manual-transmission cars since 1992.

Knowing then what I know now, I would change:

I would have let wide-eyed curiosity about the future - my future - override anxiety and fear and uncertainty. I would have also begun, early and often, to use regrets more constructively.
Life since Brandeis:
Since graduation, I have lived in New York working as a fundraiser for non-profits, and then I returned to Brandeis and received an MA at the Hornstein Program for Jewish Communal Service and an MA in Management at the Heller School, both in 1999. Then I worked in the Jewish community in Boston doing project management for a small Jewish website. I was married in 1999 and had my son in 2002. When my twin daughters were born in 2005 I stopped working in an office and became a full time parent. I have recently been involved with many different volunteer activities in my community.

My most interesting travel experience:
Traveling to Israel with my children. Watching them experience a new place that we are so connected to for the first time was amazing.

What I share with people about Brandeis:
I recall Brandeis with wonderful memories. I mostly say that it seems like yesterday, how could it have been so long ago.

Jennifer Weber
I was so grateful to get to go to a rigorous, research oriented liberal arts college. Learning Chinese and visiting China with Professor Ralph Thaxton are two of my highlights from my time at Brandeis.

What I share with people about Brandeis:

I hope to see more of the world with Jim—hopes include hiking the Inca Trail and doing a backpacking trip around Southeast Asia. I also hope to continue to find peace right in my own home and backyard.

My hopes to accomplish, see or become in the next 25:

Sharon R. Wesoky

More school followed my life after Brandeis—I completed a Ph.D. in Government at Cornell University, writing a dissertation on the emerging independent feminist movement in Beijing. I met my now-husband, Jim Fitch, just as I was departing for Taiwan and China for 16 months of planned fieldwork. He decided to join me in Beijing and we had a wonderful year there together, pretending to already be married to any local who seemed concerned. We now both work with a wonderful group of students at Allegheny College, a liberal arts institution in northwestern Pennsylvania, myself as Professor of Political Science and Jim as Director of Career Education. We enjoy travel (highlight: summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2001) but also just being home together with our 13 year old shar-pei mix Abbey. I’ve taken up distance running (highlights: the Great Wall Marathon in 2007 and the Beijing Marathon in 2013), and we have started running ultramarathons together, which really just mean a great time together in the woods. My research is now on Buddhist practitioners in Beijing, but I’m also interested in photography and am a compulsive writer of haiku. I’m completely grateful for all that my time at Brandeis brought to my life.
Life since Brandeis:
I’ve been married to Doug Williams (class of ’92) since 1996 -- we’ll be celebrating our 20th anniversary this July!! We have twin sons, Christopher and Nicholas who are 13 and in 7th grade. About 8 years ago, we moved to Marblehead, MA and love the sense of community and proximity to the beaches!

My career has been an interesting and continuous “journey”...
After graduation, I taught preschool and kindergarten at the Lemberg Children’s Center on campus. From there, I moved into the work-life balance industry, spending 10 years at Work/Family Directions/Ceridian Corporation, the industry pioneer in the development of work-life programs. I learned the industry from the ground up, developing my knowledge and skill set as the industry evolved. I started off as a consultant, working with employees of companies throughout the US. Then, transitioned into account management, managing some of the Company’s highest profile national accounts.

After taking “time off” when my boys were born, I decided to return to the field of education. I was fortunate and found a position in our town’s school system. I spent the last eight years as a special educator, earning my M.S.Ed., Special Education and Inclusive Curriculum Design from Wheelock College, and teaching in a substantially separate classroom for students with language based learning disabilities.

Now that my sons are older, it’s time to acknowledge the passion I continue to feel for the work-life industry. I am currently looking to return to the field in this next leg of my professional “journey”.

My most interesting travel experience:
Doug and I planned our honeymoon trip to Greece ourselves. A missed ferry had us spending the night in a tiny room at “Hair by Maria” in Santorini.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:
Funniest memory: “Sliding” down the hill on the walk back from Chomondoley’s with Laurie McMillan and Mark Harrington.

Doug and me
with Christopher and Nicholas

Ropes course
at Mount Sunapee Adventure Park

Doug and me
with Christopher and Nicholas

U2 at TD Garden in Boston

The Williams Boys
I tell them that Brandeis was a place where I evolved and grew tremendously as a citizen of the world and a human person. When I think of who I was as a first-year student and who I am now, I know that there has been a lot of change for the better. Brandeis was a place where I could simultaneously feel welcomed and safe, yet challenged and stretched. It was a place where I could dive deep into science, arts, music, literature, and languages. I really also appreciated the chance to be immersed in the Jewish culture and religion -- as a Christian from a small southern town, it was a unique opportunity and one that really helped to expand my perspective on the world. Last of all, I tell them that this was a place where I made friends for a lifetime.

What I share with people about Brandeis:
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Life since Brandeis:
After graduation, I stayed in the Boston area for a few years, living in Belmont and Arlington and working at the Harvard Cyclotron Lab as a beam operator for their proton radiotherapy facility, which was a partnership between Harvard University and the Massachusetts General Hospital. I really enjoyed this experience, partly because it gave me a lot of satisfaction to work in radiation therapy and partly because I got to work with big machines that had cool dials, controls, and blinking lights. Although I didn’t realize it at the time, that choice of my first job out of college would propel and guide my career for many years afterwards. During those years, I also learned to be a conscientious urban cyclist, which has come in handy numerous times.

After a few years I decided that I was ready to move on to graduate school; my mentors advised me that since graduate school was likely to take a while, I should go somewhere enjoyable and interesting. Since I was curious about the west coast, I applied to schools in California and was fortunately accepted to the Bioengineering program at the University of California San Francisco and the University of California Berkeley. My first year of graduate school was very tough, and I came pretty close to leaving, but ultimately found a great research group in medical physics, and after a few detours completed my PhD in 2002. Living in the Bay Area for several years was fantastic – great weather, terrific people, brilliant teachers, excellent food, ubiquitous tech, and a transit system named “BART”.

In 1998 I married Andrea C. Kramer ’91 (whom I had met during my very first semester at Brandeis, but the chemistry didn’t activate until much later) and she has been my guiding star ever since. She has a companion entry in this book that is probably written much better than mine! I am continually grateful for our marriage, friendship, love, and laughter. We have two children together – Simon was born in 2006 and Monica was born in 2008. The first years of being a new parent were much harder than I ever imagined, although of course now I can’t imagine my life without them. It’s amazing to watch them grow and learn, and simultaneously thrilling and unsettling to see Andrea and myself reflected in their personalities and behavior.

After graduate school, I landed my first postdoc and faculty position at Georgetown University, where I had the wonderful fortune to work with their CyberKnife team studying respiratory motion compensation. My most recent move brought me to Virginia Tech, where I’m on the faculty in Physics, although I spend most of my time as an Associate Dean for the Graduate School and Director of Tech’s Northern Virginia Center. I still really enjoy working in an academic setting, and the administrative role allows me to experience and contribute to a very wide range of challenges. I’m very proud of the advances that we’ve made in distance learning, our innovation and maker spaces, the overall growth of our extended campus, and my personal (very minor) victories with social media. Although I don’t think that university education is in a “crisis”, major upheavals are indeed happening, so the road ahead should be both disruptive and enlightening.

A good friend of mine has a saying: “The days are long, but the years are short”. With that in mind, I still want to slow down time, yet I’m already looking forward to our next big reunion!

My most interesting travel experience:
I’ve had the good fortune to travel to a few international destinations, but nothing quite compares to my trip to India for classmate Priya Saran’s wedding. Besides being able to share the experience with several other Brandeisians, it was an epic experience in every sense of the word.

A good friend of mine has a saying: “The days are long, but the years are short”. With that in mind, I still want to slow down time, yet I’m already looking forward to our next big reunion!
After graduation, I backpacked through Europe before starting graduate school. Taking a detour, I ended up spending three days in Pamplona at the Running of the Bulls. Never seen anything like that.

My most interesting travel experience:

Life since Brandeis:

Julian never left academia. He attended graduate school at Johns Hopkins University and worked as a professor at SUNY-Albany, Boston University, and now Princeton University. He is the author and editor of numerous books on American political history. He is also a public intellectual who writes a weekly column for CNN.COM and appears in the media regularly. He is married to Meg Jacobs, also a political historian at Princeton, and they have four wonderful kids: Abigail, Sophia, Nathan and Claire.

My fondest, funniest, or most impactful Brandeis memory:

Living on Russell Street with all of my friends in our senior year. Many great memories there.

With Meg, my wife, friend and life partner

With the family in Israel

With the family at the White House Briefing Room

Talking about politics
Although they mostly won’t be at the Reunion, it would be great to see Adam Ginsburg, David Stern, Neil Rothstein, Andy Stern, and Paul Ranis.

I hope to catch up with the following people at Reunion:

Life since Brandeis:
I have been married for almost 18 years to my wife Stacy (Stacy Sherman while at Brandeis- Class of 1990). We have three awesome kids -- Max, who is 17 and a junior in high school, Noah, who is almost 14 and is 8th grade, and Hannah, who is 11 and in 6th grade. I am attorney practicing commercial litigation and bankruptcy in a small law firm in Manhattan.
In Memoriam

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

Lara Adamsons
David Alpert
Jeremy Blumenthal
Louis De Francis-Block
Jorge Fernandes
Cynthia Lilleston Florence
Craig Goldsweig
Penelope Kurzontowski
Melissa Santacreu
Marissa Scharf
David Schorr
Brent Shamberg