

**Brandeis
Class of 1990**

30th Reunion
Yearbook



Joy Bockstein Abt

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I am currently a prosthodontist and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine where I am the course director for fixed prosthodontics. It is a position I have held since 2008. I have been married to Peter Abt '90 for 22 years. We live in Villanova, PA. Peter is a transplant surgeon and Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. We have 2 children; a son, Benjamin who is 19 and a freshman in college and a daughter, Arielle who is 16 and a high school sophomore. I enjoy running, cooking, traveling and spending time with my family.



Joy and Peter (January 2020) Venice, Italy



Joy, Peter, Ben and Arielle (December 2019)
Barcelona, Spain



Staci and Joy (November 2019) Villanova, PA



Joy, Ben and Peter (August 2019)
Philadelphia, PA



Joy and Arielle (December 2018) Jerusalem,
Israel

Wayne Altman



Melanie Kopelowitz Appelbaum

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Since Brandeis, I went back to school to get my MBA in Marketing from NYU Stern School of Business. I then worked for American Express for a number of years before taking time off to raise my children. I have been happily married to my husband Eric since 1995. We have 4 children, Joshua, age 21, Julia, age 19, Lilly, age 16 and Talya, age 15. Joshua is graduating from the University of Vermont this year and planning on going to medical school. Julia is at Wash U in St Louis as a sophomore and is very happy there! About 10 years ago, I started consulting part time with a variety of companies. I currently work part time for a local synagogue as their marketing director managing their website, internal/external communications as well as their public relations.

As for Brandeis' impact on my life - some of my closest friends are still my Brandeis friends!





From left to right: Ilana Schoenfeld, Judy
Cashman Magram, Melanie Kopelowitz
Appelbaum

Sheryl Axelrod

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I can't believe it's been 30 years -- how the time has flown since being at Shapiro in Massell! I kept up my Spanish and have gotten really into salsa dancing. In January 2014, I met my husband Tonio on a salsa dance floor! He's from Mexico and we spent our first year together talking in Spanish before I changed us over to speaking in English. Now, while he certainly has an accent (which sounds great), he's fluent in English! Tonio and I married in August 2015. We both love to salsa and put on a salsa and Bachata performance at our wedding! After trying for years to have a baby, in June 2018, I gave birth to our daughter, Chloe! She's truly our pride and joy and watching her play, learn, and grow, and listening to her laughter, makes us beam! She's learning to speak in Spanish and English. In December 2019, we moved from our apartment in Philadelphia to a home in the suburbs in Moorestown, NJ, which we love. We have a giant Japanese cherry tree in our front yard, a large backyard, and lots of space in the house where she can run and play. These days, she's climbing more than anything. We loved going to Music Together classes with other children and miss them but our teacher is working on organizing virtual classes for us. Tonio and I still salsa and during quarantine, are practicing more together.

I've kept in touch with so many people from school, most over Facebook but some by emails or phone. I miss everyone! Professionally, after graduating, I went to

Temple Law School, clerked for a judge, worked at one of the 100 largest law firms in the country (Blank Rome), and then gave 4-weeks' notice and launched The Axelrod Firm, a certified, woman-owned firm with offices in Philadelphia and Washington, DC. We're a team of 7 professionals: 3 lawyers, 2 paralegals, an Office Manager and my Executive Administrative Assistant representing companies and governmental bodies in commercial, employment, and bodily injury including product liability litigation, and I serve as a Settlement Master / Mediator and AAA Arbitrator in commercial litigation matters. I also do a lot of writing and public speaking in the equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion space. I plan to write a book in the space so stay tuned!

Can't wait to read your stories! Stay safe and well.

Hugs,
Sheryl L. Axelrod





Michele Becker-Hamou

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Brandeis University started me on my path to becoming a physician. After leaving Brandeis I went on to complete a masters degree at Georgetown University and then a medical degree at Sackler School of Medicine in Tel Aviv, Israel. It is there that I met my husband, Daniel Hamou and traveled the Middle East while studying. I completed an Internal Medicine residency at North Shore University Hospital in Long Island and have since settled in East Setauket. We have been married for 24 years and have three daughters, Samara, Kiley, and Eliana. Samara will be graduating from The University of Virginia May of 2020 and will also be going on to medical school. Kiley is graduating from Ward Melville High School and will be playing Soccer at Princeton University this fall. Eliana is also graduating this year from Gelinias Junior HS and enjoys soccer and volunteer work. Our family loves to travel and spend time in Nantucket. Cisco is our newest addition, our mini golden doodle, our first dog. I was looking forward to reconnecting with Brandeis friends at the reunion, hoping everyone is healthy and safe.



Stella Levy Cohen

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

As I'm sure we are all thinking And writing it's really hard to believe that it's been 30 years since graduation. I loved being a student at a Brandeis. I loved the friends I made the professors I had and living right outside of Boston. It was my first choice school and to this day I am thrilled that it was. I am still in close to so many of my Brandeis friend that feel more like family than friends. I feel so lucky to have made those connections at Brandeis. It's a wonderful feeling of support and love from those people we grew up with. To this day I feel I received an outstanding education at Brandeis. I went on to Get a masters in education and taught on and off until I had my children and after a short hiatus went back into the classroom. Currently I teach 6th grade social studies at a Jewish day school. I have 2 wonderful daughters and have been married to my husband for 20 years this June. We live in Stamford, CT and I still Spend my summers at my family summer home in Marshfield Massachusetts. My oldest daughter will be graduating from high school this June and attending American Univ this fall. Brandeis was high in her list , but the opportunity to study and live in DC won out. My youngest will be finishing up her freshman year this spring. I am sad that reunion was cancelled I was so looking forward to seeing everyone. I hope that you're all healthy and managed to stay safe and well during the Corona pandemic. Hoping we can all see each other sooner than later.



Vivian M Crespo-Miranda

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

After graduating from Brandeis, I returned to Puerto Rico to do law school and graduated in 1994. My first job at the Justice Department led me to position as the first female Deputy Director for the Tax Evasion Bureau at the PR Treasury Department. After that I went into private practice for. I am married and have beautiful 13 yr old daughter. I currently work as legal advisor for the PR Workers Compensation. I also work on the Risk Management, Business Impact Committee. My fondest memory of Brandeis is my work as TA for the Lembergh pre school on campus, Saturdays with friends at Chumley's and their hot apple cider. Also the wonderful Boston places like Harvard Square and Quincy Market. Brandeis taught me to tap into your inner strengths, talents and insights, to keep the constant yearning to learn alive. Through hurricanes, earthquakes and pandemics, we need all you have to get thru.



David Farbman

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Some key highlights since that fateful day - May 20, 1990

- Earned a PhD in American History at Brown
- Worked for many years in educational public policy, focused especially on increasing resources and educational quality in under-resourced schools
- Switched to educational management in Jewish special education, about 4 years ago
- Married college sweetheart, Karen Splansky; married 28+ years
- Have three kids:
 - Emily, 24, first year medical student (taking after her mom), after graduating from Brandeis, Class of 2018 (yay!)
 - Shira, 21, junior at Barnard/List College (JTS)
 - Jonathan, 16, sophomore at our local public high school
- Brandeis friends are our dearest and proud of the large circle of friendships we have maintained over the years
- Still look back fondly on my years at the 'Deis, especially the academics, as I often think of moments in classes that still inform my thinking today; in fact, as someone involved in education, I often contemplate how it is that formal education influences one's later life and, in the case of Brandeis, I can state with confidence that the papers I wrote, the books I read, the discussions I participated in, have definitively shaped my outlook on life and my ability to synthesize information and develop arguments
- Watching my two older children through college, I wonder if their lives will be as

shaped by their experiences as mine has been by my time at Brandeis - I certainly hope so, given how much we're paying for it :)

-- As we get older, I do yearn for those more innocent days in college, but I also am truly grateful for how Brandeis nurtured me and has provided me with a large circle of lifelong friends.



When I was a little younger...



The Farbman Five



The Next Generation Brandeisian

Jodi Freedman

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

While at Brandeis, I came to really appreciate Boston, so after graduation I decided to stay in the area. With my work experience from the publications office at Brandeis, I was able to launch my communications career at Harvard University. I worked in two different positions there over the course of five years while pursuing an interest in ceramics and studying for my master's degree in communications at Emerson College.

After completing that degree, despite not even owning a stereo, I took an employee communications job at a small consumer electronics company called Bose Corporation. I thought I would be there for one year, but that somehow turned into 22 years. As the company grew, I had many opportunities to do interesting work and develop my expertise. I earned my accreditation as a business communicator, participated in several leadership development programs, and eventually led a global team.

Meanwhile, in 1998, with several Brandeis friends in attendance, I married Dave Margil. We had met while working together at Harvard, and quickly discovered we had shared connections with two people from the Brandeis class of '89 who I knew from Student Events. We bought a house in Natick, Mass. and had two children: Matt was born in 2002 and Leo in 2006. In 2015, we came to the Brandeis campus as a family to celebrate Matt's bar mitzvah. (It was the first time I had ever set foot in a

chapel on campus!)

I found it challenging to be a full-time working parent, and struggled to pursue my own interests and stay in touch with friends. For many years, the only books I read were whatever my children were reading! Thankfully, as the kids have gotten older, I have been able to find more time for myself. I like to take long walks, swim, meditate, read books of my own choosing, and design and build original stained glass projects. I also keep an herb garden and enjoy cooking and baking. (But not cleaning up.) And I'm grateful that I have had the chance to travel to some interesting places around the world.

This past November I made a big change: I took an employee communications manager role at Brigham and Women's Hospital. I was just starting to understand how things run there when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. It has been an exhausting experience as my team has been responsible for communicating all of our rapidly-evolving policies and processes to the hospital's 24,000 employees. I'm proud of our work and am gratified that, in my own small way, I've been able to do something to help during this crazy time.

I've had the good fortune to stay in contact with a handful of Brandeis friends from our class and others, and look forward to a time when we can actually see each other in person!



Jodi, Matt, Leo and Dave

Alyssa (Turner) Gillespie

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Immediately following my time at Brandeis, I lived in Moscow for the better part of the next 3 years (January 1990 to July 1993). I witnessed the end of perestroika and of the Soviet Union itself, and the traumatic early 1990s with their social unrest and economic hardships. I taught English and American literature in several different schools in Moscow and am in touch with some of my former colleagues and students to this day. It was an incredible time to be living in Russia, and one that was life-changing.

After returning to the U.S., I received my Ph.D. in Russian literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1998. I then went on to teach Russian language, literature, and culture at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana for 17 years, before moving to Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine four years ago to take up the position of chair of the Russian department here. I am happy to be back in New England again, and I do occasionally get the chance to visit the Boston area!

I have been married and divorced twice and have now been single for the past nine years; I have five wonderful and gifted sons, ages 13 to 23 (the two oldest are twins). My youngest son celebrated his Bar Mitzvah last November at our new synagogue in Portland.

In my research, I specialize on Russian poetry of the 19th and 20th centuries; I have written a book on the poetics of

Marina Tsvetaeva, edited a book on taboo topics in the life and work of Alexander Pushkin, and am currently writing a monograph on Pushkin's ethics of poetic inspiration. I am also a translator of Russian poetry into English and recently collaborated with California composer Mark Abel on a new song cycle that sets my translations of Tsvetaeva's poems to music (the piece is scored for soprano, piano, and English horn).

I have stayed in touch with only a couple of Brandeis folks but would be happy to hear from anyone who remembers me. My fondest memory of Brandeis is of the campus in early May, when the sun was shining and all of the fruit trees, azaleas, rhododendrons, and spring bulbs were in bloom! I also have very fond and grateful memories of my wonderful professors in the English department, especially Allen Grossman, Karen Klein, Alan Levitan, and Paul Morrison, and of my first Russian teacher, Inna Broude. Without these inspiring teachers and mentors, I would not be the person I am today.



On the campus of Bowdoin College



In the White Mountains of New Hampshire



At the Giant Stairs, Harpswell, Maine



My five sons

Scott Gladstone

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I am a lawyer in Brookline, Massachusetts specializing in business disputes, real estate disputes and construction law. My wife of 27 years, Tracy, is a senior research scientist at the Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College, where she studies the prevention of depression in adolescents at risk for depression. She travels the world to be on panels in her area of expertise, and sometimes she takes me along!

We are blessed to have three very well-adjusted children. Our oldest, Benjamin, just got engaged to his college sweetheart and lives in NYC, where he has started a doctoral program at NYU in History and Hebrew & Judaic Studies. He spent a recent year as a Fulbright Scholar in Jerusalem, where he studied archival material in Hebrew and Judeo Arabic concerning the Jewish community in Yemen on the eve of their mass transport to Israel. Our daughter, Sarah, is a senior at Wellesley College. She is a resident advisor, a captain of the swim team, and is working on her senior honors thesis in the Psychology Department. She is regularly recognized for her academic achievements as a scholar athlete. She also comes with me to Dead & Company shows. Our youngest, Josh, is a first-year student at Brandeis. At Brookline High School, he and his four-man lightweight boat, competed at the U.S. Rowing Youth Nationals. At Brandeis, he just learned he was selected as a Community Advisor in North Quad next year. He is doing research with a sociology professor and takes care of

toddlers at Lemberg Children's Center while juggling rugby and ultimate Frisbee and who knows what else.

I read a lot of history, thanks to the intense interest I formed as a history major at Brandeis. I am particularly fond of books by my Brandeis mentor, David Hackett Fischer. I also use the communications skills that I formed as a peer hotline counselor at Brandeis (People Are Listening) on a daily basis in all of my interactions. I have been an elected member of Brookline's Town Meeting for the past 20 years.

Consistent with the mission of Brandeis, I am active in my Jewish community. I am on the board of Camp Yavneh, where I went as child, and where my kids grew up, and where we all formed our Jewish identities. I have been president of Temple Emeth of Chestnut Hill and remain chair of the Education Committee. I travel to Israel whenever I can. My family is progressive AND Zionist, which are in no way inconsistent (happy to talk about that with anyone). I am also a member of the Global Advocacy Circle of the New England chapter of the American Jewish Committee. I am making my way through several tractates of the Shottenstein translation of the Talmud (although I have not committed to the daf yomi schedule) and I try to read everything by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin (easy and digestible teaching on everything you need to know to be a literate Jew). That's my nutshell!



Me and Tracy



The fam on Martha's Vineyard

Jennifer Elkin Gorman, Rabbi

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Brandeis allowed me to explore my interests. It taught me that just because I started on one path didn't mean I had to stay on that path. I likely spent as much time in the Student Events office, planning and working programs as I did in class. It was a great place to be where I could just be myself and relax. It also led to wing nights at the Ground Round, an overnight road trip to L.L. Bean, (I still have the pajamas I bought. Quality lasts), and lots and lots of t-shirts that are now part of quilt on my bed. I'm not as in touch with people as I'd like to be, but I still value and cherish their presence in my life for those four years at Brandeis. They were incredibly intelligent, interesting, and supportive people. One favourite memory is reading Weekly World Report with my freshman RA. Best news no one should ever print.

Another is taking The Princess Bride back to our suite with a projector to project on the wall. We watched it over and over. It was an immediate favorite then, and still is.

Though I appreciated their friendship back then, I didn't realize how important they were to my own development. My choice of career dates to one night with friends when we all realized liberal arts didn't pay a lot. Someone in the group suggested I become a rabbi. It clicked, and I never looked back. When my parents died, two years apart, Brandeis friends offered comfort. I didn't realize how much that would mean.

I've done so much. I've lived in five states, and travelled to so many more. Three

countries, and visited others. I'd love to go back to some and see others for the first time. I have friends on every continent. I've broken glass ceilings. My husband is a US Navy chaplain, now in the reserves, and I've enjoyed a 25 year association with the Navy and the Marines. Through this I earned a certificate in the Spirituality of Trauma with the Department of the Army.

I have a great husband and three wonderful kids, not perfect, but wonderful. They're busy finding their own way in the world. Two are going into the arts, the third is a science kid. Our oldest graduates from university this year. Our youngest starts college this year. The middle one is finishing first year. I can only hope their college experiences are even half as good as mine.

I can't imagine my life any other way, and the foundation I received at Brandeis was a big part of that foundation. I look forward to future reunions and there being so much more in my future to share- distillery tours in Tennessee and Scotland, Tours of Alaska, Australia, and the Pacific Northwest, maybe a cross-country trip to Canada's west coast. I want to see my kids launched and accomplishing their dreams. I want to see them acting and writing, and discovering new things. I want them to find life partners, and be as lucky and content as I am. I want to enjoy and celebrate grandchildren with family and friends. I only hope life, with all its ups and downs, continues to be as fulfilling as it has so far!



Jennifer & Sean Gorman, almost 28 years!



PEI's Green Gables National Site



Working on a clergy build with Habitat for Humanity. (I'm on the right.)



Visiting PEI with my family.

Jay Green

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I live in Lafayette Hill, PA with my wife Dori and my two daughters, Alyssa and Carly. Alyssa will be a junior at Washington University in St. Louis in the fall, and Carly will be a freshman at Lehigh. I am an attorney at a small firm in Philadelphia.

28 years after graduation, and after a lot of heckling from a number of annoying Patriots and Giants fans in our class, the Eagles finally winning the Super Bowl in 2018 is a highlight since our last reunion.

I still enjoy spending as much time as possible with my longtime Brandeis friends, especially on our trips out of town together. I have many great Brandeis memories, including intramural football, "Movie Night" in the Shapiro Lounge, Rose from Sherman Cafeteria, playing football in the snow on Chapels Field, late night Mimi's Roast Beef runs, the formidable WBRS Sports Department, and learning about the JFK assassination in 3 different Jerry Cohen classes. I hope that everyone is doing well!



Lisa Greenfield

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

My best memories of Brandeis are of the friendships that I made. Freshman year seems to stand out the most - maybe because it was new and we were all starting something exciting together. Halloween trick or treating, chemistry with Beth Z, Student Events planning... Since then it seems like I have lived multiple lives.

Part 1: I was a graphic designer, designing catalogs and products for the Museum of Fine Arts before moving my way up to Creative Director at a toy company Crocodile Creek, creating patterns, soft toys and trade show booths.... I became very involved with my neighborhood arts group, the Fort Point Arts Community, joining their Board. As I became more and more interested in the design and development of my neighborhood - participating in community meetings, and working with the community, I decided I wanted to pursue a degree in Urban Planning.

Part 2: I started at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) on Sept 11, 2001 - yes, that Sept 11th. The next 2 years were a blur of late nights and hard work. After receiving my Masters in Urban Planning I worked in both the public and private sectors, doing master planning, urban design guidelines, renderings and the like. I really enjoyed this work and was at it full time until the recession of 2008 hit.

Part 3: Throughout my life I have continued my artistic pursuits. I established Greenfield Studio (www.greenfield-studio.com) - and

maintained a creative practice in painting, public art, and design. Most notable is the public art installation my husband and I created called Starry Night - a LED lighting project on the underside of a Boston bridge, which earned much acclaim. Also during this time, I married and had a son, Julian, who is now 7. We got a late start and my son was starting first grade while a lot of my contemporaries had kids going to college. It has been exciting and challenging. I also recently had a solo show of my paintings at a Boston gallery. I still paint in my studio in Dorchester, MA as often as I can. Which has not been a lot since I am now quarantine homeschooling my son.



Greenfield-van Ackere family



Starry Night by Lisa Greenfield and Daniel van Ackere



Julian and Sadie



A recent painting: Flight Pattern, 30' x 40",
oil and cold wax on canvas, 2019



Lisa, Danny and Julian

Adam Grundfast

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

It seems strange to think that 30 years have gone by since our Brandeis days. A lot has happened since then. Marriage (23 years), children (2 amazing children, ages 16 and 12), death (my mother, in an accidental fall), increased wisdom and decreased hair. Career-wise, I had a traditional path in transactional business law (law firms, then in-house) until the recession, at which point that path got very murky. Fortunately, this gave me an opportunity to re-examine my passions and path...a chance we don't often get to do when we are far along in our careers. I realized my joy of helping and developing others. So while I continued to piece together legal business and took advantage of other business roles, I also got involved in teaching at the college and grad level and got back to summer camp (which I loved when younger). What started as a lot of law and a little teaching and camp shifted to where I am today, which is the opposite. I help develop amazing young people year-round as Assistant Director of Camp Jacobson, an amazing summer day camp under the Sid Jacobson JCC. I still teach law on an adjunct basis at Baruch College, have developed and deliver career development workshops for students, and still have a few legal clients. My work with campers gives me a chance to leave a lasting legacy in an impactful way, and it allows me to wake up daily looking forward to the work ahead of me. As I tell my students, a career path is to a degree like surfing...you can start to steer your board in a particular direction, but you also need to be flexible to follow the waves where

they take you. I hope you are all well, and I'm sorry we won't be able to see each other firsthand at the reunion.





Nicholas Haber

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I am currently the Director of STEM and CTE at Certiport, a Pearson VUE Company and am passionate about the work I do there. Pearson is the world's leading learning company. The division where I work, Certiport, develops, distributes and manages industry-recognized certifications that empower students to have work-ready skills when they graduate. I am responsible for four programs, including Apple, Intuit, the Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB) Certification, and the IC3 Digital Literacy Certification. Certiport sets the learning standards for these subjects, and I support my colleagues' efforts to have these standards accepted by educational institutions around the world. This past year, I coordinated with a local Egyptian partner to host a summit on entrepreneurship education in Cairo to support the University of Alexandria's decision to use Certiport's ESB for its more than 160,000 students. The University of Alexandria won the prestigious European Training Foundation's Entrepreneurship Award for its implementation of ESB.

In 2017, we hosted an exchange for elementary school principals from Ho Chi Minh City to visit schools in Broward County Florida who were also using the IC3 Digital Literacy Certification. The two groups exchanged ideas and discussed the similarities and differences between the two societies.

In 2012, I started a non-profit, NE Distance. New England Distance partners with urban

public schools to create opportunities for kids to play sports that were previously unavailable to them. We started in Woonsocket, where the city had to cut middle school sports back in 2009 because of budget shortfalls. We started cross-country and track-and-field programs for the Woonsocket middle schools in the 2013-14 school year and have been going strong ever since. The students are coached by the New England Distance athletes -- post-collegiate elite runners training to chase their Olympic dreams. We have an athlete-in-residence fellowship program that provides runners with housing, coaching, and a travel stipend. As part of the deal, the athletes are matched with a middle school and given the job to coach cross-country and track programs. To date, NE Distance has had four athletes named to five Team USA teams.

Nich lives in Providence RI. His wife, Lynne Harlow is a 2020 Pollack Krasner Grant recipient and their daughter Lena is in the 7th grade at Lincoln School where she won a Gold Key from the Rhode Island Scholastic Art Education Association



Nich with Dr. Pantami, Minister of Communications and Digital Economy of Nigeria in Abuja, Feb 2020

Neil Jacobson

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Lisa (Drate) and I are particularly excited for this Reunion as both of our daughters are staffing this Reunion, one as a Brandeis student and one as a recent graduate. Since the last Reunion, we have been back to campus many, many times, mostly to see our daughters (Adina '20 and Talia '22) in theater productions! It has been an amazing experience to see Brandeis as parents and it has given me a greater appreciation of the education I received 30+ years ago. Going to Brandeis many years ago was a life altering experience for me on so many levels and I am very glad to see so many wonderful aspects of the university remain unchanged. The attached picture was taken as we moved Adina into Massell in 2016 – the same quad we lived in our freshman year!

Lisa and I have lived in Needham MA for almost 20 years along with a number of fellow Brandeis alumni. We are in close contact with many classmates who are among our closest friends and we see each other whenever we can. Professionally, I have been working as a Compliance Officer in the mutual fund industry in Boston for the past 24 years.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in June!



Chaim and Esa (Kanter) Jaffe

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

The life lessons we learned at Brandeis have proven to be invaluable. Perhaps, none more so than the meaning of tikun olam and friendship. These two values have served us well in our professional and volunteer involvement. We are forever grateful for all of our life-long friends and that we have been able to share our love for Brandeis with our oldest son, who graduated with his undergraduate degree last year and his graduate degree from IBS this year.



Israel 2018

Joan Leviton Kagan

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I am living in my "empty nest" in New York City. My three sons have flown the coop. My oldest, David, aged 26, is living in Los Angeles and working in film production for Netflix; my middle son, Andrew, aged 24, is living close to me in Manhattan and working in sales for Moody's Analytics, and my "baby", Jeremy, 20, is a junior at Elon University.



I am selling luxury real estate in New York City and recently had an advertising campaign on Manhattan phone booths (yes, there are still phone booths!).

I return to the Boston area often to visit my parents, who have moved from my childhood home in Newton to Brookline.



Kenneth Kaplan, MD

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I currently live in Santa Monica, CA and have been with Kaiser Permanente for the past 16 years. I am an OB/GYN and love what I do. I am married to Christy Kaplan and have 2 children. Melia (17) and Vance (6). I have always loved Martial Arts and did some light training while I was at Brandeis. I have since earned a Black Belt in Kyokushin-Kan Karate . I still enjoy sports and playing tennis.

Brian FG Katz

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I left Brandeis with a double major in Physics and Philosophy. As this prepared me little for the job market, other than as a lab technician at BU, I went on to an MSc in Applied Physics in the UK where I also married my wife Marjut, from Finland, whom I had met during my junior year abroad while visiting Paris, where she was studying. After my MSc, I fell upon the field of Acoustics, recommended by my friend Kenneth H. Wong ('91) from Physics and my right hand at Student Events where I headed the production team in 1990. That experience taught me a great deal about audio, as well as the intricacies of "company" politics. I completed my PhD in acoustics at Penn State, during which time I changed my family name from Gray back to Katz, which was my grandfather's name before he changed it.

Finishing my PhD in the field of 3D Audio and Spatial Hearing, I went on to work at several room acoustic consulting companies in NYC. Always torn between research and consulting, I took a year of absence and went to France on a Chateaubriand fellowship from the French US embassy for scientific exchanges. It took little time for me to realize that research, and life in France, was the life I wanted. I can only imagine the dismay of such a choice in the eyes of my French teacher at Brandeis, a class in which I could not have done worse. Having chosen to stay, but with no job lined up, I applied for a highly competitive research position with the French National Research Centre (CNRS) through their national annual competition,

in the area of 3D Audio and virtual acoustics. I achieved this position, a tenured state research post, and have been living in Paris France even since.

I recently joined the Institut Jean Le Rond d'Alembert at the Sorbonne University as a CNRS Research Director, the equivalent of a professor position without teaching responsibilities. My research remains centered on 3D Audio and Virtual Acoustic Simulations, a rapidly growing area with the spread of consumer VR. I am currently heading several projects focusing on the virtual reconstruction of Notre-Dame Cathedral, ravaged by fire in 2019.



Marni Smith Katz

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

It's been an exciting ride since graduating Brandeis with many opportunities I couldn't have predicted. Today, I am the Associate Director of Planned Giving at Yale University. I've been a litigator, and worked as a development director for nonprofits in education and the arts for the last twenty years. I married Stuart Katz, '89, we have two amazing sons, and the older one is Brandeis '22. I'm still in touch with many of my Brandeis friends and will never forget the wonderful times we had back in the day and since. Sending my best to all of you!



Brandeis Family Weekend 2019

Rob Klein

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Barefoot, tie dye wearing long haired free spirit, playing rugby, off campus parties, on campus concerts, the Bong-a-thon and Bertha, nights roaming North quad til the sun came up, joining protests with friends on campus and in Boston, summer school, living in the attic at Park Street, living on Lowell Street, the late night ritual of watching the Twilight Zone and Alfred Hitchcock Presents, pizza deliveries, and hours and hours in the art studio, that is how I remember my days at Brandeis.

Since graduating with a fine arts degree, I accidentally fell into a career. My first job was in a psychiatric hospital where they put me on the adolescent substance abuse unit... After completing a degree at NYU, as a graduation gift to myself I drove around the country for 3 months, camping and staying on couches. I started my career as a school social worker. After starting out at alternative schools (if you got kicked out of public school, you got sent to a school like this) I then moved to NYC to finish a PhD where I spent almost 11 years working for the NYC DOE training teachers and working in the central office to implement city wide programs for students with disabilities. It was in NYC that I met my wife. While dating we became founding members of Romemu, a Jewish Renewal community. It was during my time in the city that I started really learning to live One Day at a Time and to Keep It Simple. Living down the street from a meditation center helped too. Reminiscent of the teaching of Birth and

Death and Social Psychology of Meditation, both of which I think I took pass/fail.

Along the way, I have done some great traveling. While a school social worker, working 10 month school jobs, I ran teen tours to Israel for 5 summers. I built my own wooden kayak and continue to enjoy DIY home remodeling projects. Finishing a half bath right now. I love anything related to the ocean; sailing, scuba diving, fishing or just walking on the beach. None of which I get to do as much as I wish.

I still dream of sailing around the world. Probably should buy a small boat first to see if the family even likes sailing. I have enjoyed my career and hope to continue to find a path that is challenging and rewarding, whether in education or another field. If I could, I would change careers to something that saves the planet, something sustainable, renewable and global. The greatest gift of being in education is the time I spend with my family. I am blessed to be married to the love of my life, Tammy, for 12 years. We have two amazingly fun and spirited daughters, Talia 10 and Jaiden 7. They are great teachers. We live in the suburbs in New Jersey. No commuting to NYC or long hours at the office. As a lifelong educator (how did that happen) it is amazing to "join the club" and have kids of our own, watch them grow, struggle, achieve then start the cycle over again.

I cherish our years at Brandeis and am grateful that is where this journey started. Hope to reconnect...



Family trip to Disney this past April



First day of school



My last birthday



Thanksgiving



Beth Kaufman Kramer

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Hello classmates! I truly can't believe it has been 30 years since we all stood together in the rain at the Brandeis amphitheater. (I am still upset that they tore it down!)

Even though May 20th, 1990 was such a long time ago, my 4 years at Brandeis still impact me every single day.

I am so grateful that I have been able to stay in such close touch with my Brandeis friends. They are still my dearest friends who know & understand me so deeply--even if we live in different parts of the country or in different Boston area communities. We have shared Brandeis girls trips for our 40th and 50th birthdays, annual Brandeis New Years Eve parties, many simchas, and now Zoom calls! I am so hugely grateful for these precious lifelong friendships and wouldn't have survived the past 30 years without them!

Right after graduation, I started working in the college textbook publishing industry. 30 years later, I am still working in higher ed publishing as a Senior Editor and riding the waves of the industry changes & challenges.

When people question the value of a liberal arts education, I speak up loudly! Every single day, I use the critical thinking and analytical skills that I learned at Brandeis. I continue to be inspired (30 years later) by my amazing English and Women's Studies professors who showed me a totally new way of seeing the world.

My Brandeis connections led me to be "fixed up" with my wonderful husband Brad. (Thank you Mike Podol!) We have been married for 22 years & he has become an honorary Brandeisian! I am also so lucky to have a Brandeis classmate & friend (Michelle Minoff) as my dear sister-in-law! Michelle and I were English majors together and friends, but who knew she would end up marrying my husband's brother? (Thank you Lyla Naseem and Eric Mulkowsky!)

Finally, I am so beyond blessed to have two beautiful children--Maisie (19) and Gabe (16). Maisie is a freshman at Clark University and Gabe is a sophomore in high school. We are so fortunate to live in Brookline MA (along with many other Brandeis alums). Another Brandeis gift that keeps on giving--other classmates and alumni who also have children with disabilities. There is a "sub-community" of us and I am so grateful for this double bond that we share.

I am so sad that we can't be together in person at our favorite place, but hopefully we can reconvene at our 35th? So much love to all of you!!!

Jonathan Lass

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Over the past 24 years, you can find me in a classroom teaching. I began my career as an elementary teacher working with 5th graders. Fourteen years ago, I moved up to the middle school where I have taught both 6th & 7th grade social studies. Currently, I am teaching sixth graders about the ancient civilizations. During my summers, I have spent the last 6 years working as the camp photographer at Silver Lake Camp in Upstate New York. It is nice to get away from the craziness of teaching and spend time out in the fresh air. Kari and I have been married for the past 19 yrs. and our twins are now 16 years old. It's hard to believe they have started their own college search. Living in the New York City area, I have the opportunity to see Brandeis alumni from time to time and keep in touch with others around the country.

When I think back to my time at Brandeis, I remember the great times I had on the sailing team and hanging out with my friends and suitemates. Those friends continue to be there to share the good and bad times. Whether it be by Zoom, phone or text, hearing from them always makes the day. Even after not speaking for a while, it feels like we are able to pick up right where we left off. Brandeis has taught me many lessons and given me many great friends. I wish we could have all been together to celebrate this year on campus, but we will have to wait for another time.



Summer 2018

Eva Lefkowitz

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

My life since Brandeis:

- Earned a PhD in Developmental Psychology at UCLA
- Was a professor at Penn State for 18 years
- For the past 4 years, I have been a professor and department head of Human Development and Family Sciences at University of Connecticut
- Married to Eric Loken for 18 years
- Mother of twin 8th graders
- After researching teenagers for almost 30 years, I now live with two. Braces paraphernalia, eye rolls, and sarcasm are balanced out by strong convictions and intellectual conversations (hugs too, but only in private).
- After avoiding all math and science in college (my last math/physical science class was in high school) and focusing on social science, I now live in a household of the math-obsessed, where sometimes at dinner I have to beg to talk about "anything but math."
- I continue to value my Brandeis friends, and love seeing their updates on FB. One of my yearly highlights is my annual girls' weekend with Sonal (Mankodi) Joshi and Melissa (Epstein) Schop. We have been to Boston, Chicago, Denver, and the Berkshires – our time together always involves tons of walking and nonstop talking (with breaks to eat of course), and I always return refreshed and ready to tackle the world again.
- A random collection of things I learned at Brandeis that I still use in everyday life:

- statistics (I guess I lied about the math thing)
- how to write
- the importance of donating blood (even if my semester in England made me mad-cow-disease-blood-rejected)
- there's nothing better in life than staying up late chatting with a good friend





Yin Yan Leung

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

The past 30 years certainly have whizzed by. I've spent roughly half of my post Brandeis life in non-profit, health-related work in the SF Bay Area and in Hawaii, where I grew up. Since 2011, I've been working with an innovative health IT company (Applied Research Works) that develops population health management software for health plans and medical groups to improve health care delivery. I'm very fortunate and grateful to be able to WFH during these uncertain times.

I currently live on the island of Oahu in Hawaii with my husband Pete Itokazu, a math and economics teacher, and my son Kailee, who is currently a high school freshman. Our fur family members include our rescue dog Mahea and cat Ninja. Our family volunteers at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, a popular spot for tourists, locals, and the occasional endangered Hawaiian monk seal. I'm also a two-time breast cancer survivor who is thankful for being able to celebrate more birthdays with my family and friends.

Before COVID-19 broke out, our plans were to have traveled to Okinawa this past March, and then attend our 30th reunion and catch up with East Coast pals. I was even looking forward to staying in the dorms for a few nights - having fond memories of living in Ridgewood for two years with my roommate Jennifer Warf (now Murphy) and meeting others from all over the world. Being from a small town in Hawaii, attending Brandeis was such a life-

changing experience.

Future plans? I hope to try again to visit Okinawa and learn more about my husband's paternal ancestral beginnings. Another wish is to visit southern China and Hong Kong again with my 81 year-old mom, who immigrated from there when I was just an infant. I'll need to brush up on my Cantonese and learn some Japanese phrases. I'm hoping to be able to do stand up paddle boarding one day and explore more hiking trails here. Much to look forward to when we transition to a "new normal".

Sending everyone warm aloha and wishes for peace, happiness, and good health! May we be able to reconnect once again.



2019 Hilo, HI Pete, Kailee, Yin



Keeping visitors away from a napping
Hawaiian monk seal at Hanauma Bay
Nature Preserve

Susan Loeb-Zeitlin

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I married Andy in 1994, right after graduating medical school. I started my residency in OB/GYN at Cornell in 1994 and joined the faculty there in 1998 after completing my residency. We moved the suburbs in 1999. I am happy to report that not much has changed since then....same husband, same job and same house.

We proudly have 2 sons, Jacob who is graduating from Duke this year and will be attending Weill Cornell Medical College, and Noah, who is a sophomore at Brandeis and is having the same wonderful experience that we had. He is photo editor of The Justice and is in Proscenium a cappella group.

Our Brandeis friends are our lifelong friends, with whom we have shared many wonderful times and life cycle events over the past 30 years. We are so blessed to have them in our lives.

We love to travel - went to the Galapagos Islands with our family last year for our 50th birthdays - and hope to be able to resume traveling soon again!



David Liss

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Life since Brandeis has been amazing and hysterical. I spent the first few years after graduation a bit bewildered however -- I was under the impression that by attending a university with the slogan "Tooth Even Unto Its Innermost Parts" that I'd be eligible for a degree in dentistry or at least something to do with oral hygiene. Oh how my eyesight failed me once again! My whole first semester, I kept asking where to go to make denture molds and what was the university's stance on fluoride, but no one ever really had a good answer.

Life lessons learned at Brandeis:

#1: Always read the fine print. And the not-fine print. Actually read everything because somewhere there's going to be something you might miss, and let me tell you, tooth is not truth.

#2: Brush after all meals.

#3: I am not a dentist.

Fondest memories: when Crest came out with extra whitening. Well, and our graduation in the rain (and subsequently having the \$2 graduation gown seep a brownish/blackish color onto my white shirt underneath -- no wonder the gown was only \$2.) I haven't worn a gown since, but if I ever do again, I will most definitely pay for higher quality, especially if rain is in the forecast. I could of course just bring an umbrella, but I'd really want to test out the new gown. I'll make sure I wear a shirt underneath that I don't care about. Like wearing a smock to art class in grade school.

Impact Brandeis had on my life: through the friendships I made, it has granted me a very rich life full of laughter, excitement, knowledge, culture, empathy, and a strong work ethic. It has also given me the courage to write nonsense in yearbooks.

Bucket List: I've never had one actually. Everything bucket-worthy that happens seems to be a surprise and unplanned. I did drive to Delaware once. That was cool.

Greatest Achievement? Having married a wonderful wife, having two incredible daughters, and no cavities. Also when I met Dizzy Gillespie after a jazz show just a few years before he died. I spoke to him for a bit. My college roommate Mike Podol was standing next to me. When the conversation ended, Dizzy left . . . but not before Mike reached forward and touched Dizzy on the shoulder with his finger. I said out loud something to the effect of, "What the hell did you do that for? You have to bother the man? He's trying to leave, and you reach out and touch his sport coat. What could possibly be gained from touching the man's sleeve?" Had it not been for Brandeis, this would not have happened.

My parents went to Brandeis. My father used to take me to alumni events when I was a kid - I vaguely remember eating scrambled eggs in Levin ballroom at a sports breakfast with him when I was about 14 or so. Just a few months before he died, I got to attend another alumni sports banquet with him in Levin ballroom. He

and his football teammates were recognized. His picture is in 2 team photos now in the trophy room of the gym. What a school. What a life.



Frog!

Zoe Morosini (Osborne)

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Hello fellow Brandeisians! I have many fond memories of our times together. I have been a Massachusetts licensed public school teacher since 1995, teaching ESL in Chelsea, Somerville, and Boston, Mass. After graduating from Brandeis, I worked at Simmons College, traveled and worked in Spain briefly and began a Master's in Education program at Simmons upon my return. I got my TESOL degree in 1994. I was married for 17 years, and am now happily divorced. My son Santo, born in 1998, is now a Marine serving our country. I feel very fortunate to have stable employment and an income in this time of Covid-19. On my bucket list are wishes to update my modest home, travel to Italy or Spain again and perhaps move there, and retire so I can make art, read, ride my bicycle, walk my dogs, and speak different languages every day. I am happy to say I have kept in touch with several fellow 1990 graduates. My greatest achievement, beyond raising my son and teaching immigrant students how to survive and thrive in this country of ours? Perhaps it is still to come...I wish everyone well.



Santo's enlistment, October 2019



American Lung Association AEBT 160-mile
Fundraising Ride, 2015

Pam (Brock) Nedwetzky

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Hi from Sunny Arizona. My husband Greg and I relocated to the Scottsdale area in 2012 – a few months after our identical twin boys Zachary and Mitchell were born in December 2011. Our daughter Tara is a 6th grader, almost a teen, and she loves everything about acting and performing.

I think the biggest life lesson I learned at Brandeis is to be true to yourself, and to do what makes you happy. Also don't be afraid to try new things, and never stop learning. I fell in love with advertising and public relations while at Brandeis and have spent a 25+ year career in marketing. From toilet bowl cleaner, to cosmetics, to food, to toys, to pets, and now to pizza, I've always followed my interests and continually learned new industries and facets of marketing. And I still love it, especially getting to coach to mentor young marketers much like I got to work with amazing kids at the Watertown Boys and Girls club while at Brandeis.

My fondest memories are Chapel's Field in the Fall, Sociology classes in the room with the couches, Student Events, Bronstein Weekends, late night paper writing sessions, and spending a lot of time with my Brandeis friends who felt like family. And still do.

My bucket list would include adopting about 5 more dogs (can we get another one Greg? Benny needs a friend), traveling to South America, giving my daughter her dream to see the Eiffel Tower, hopefully

getting to see Hamilton and the Foo Fighters this fall, and of course having more time to spend with family and friends. Oh and World Peace.

I hope everyone is making through this crazy time well. I hope we can get together sometime soon. I plan on lots of giant hugs!



Zach, Pam, Tara, Greg, and Mitchell
Nedwetzky

Mike Podol

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I came to Boston when I started at Brandeis and fell in love with the city and have never left. I got married to my wife, Tracy, 19 years ago, and we have two high-school aged daughters, Hannah and Danica. We live in Belmont, which is only about twenty minutes from the Brandeis campus. Another bonus about staying in the area is that I am in touch with a number of Brandeis classmates, and my Brandeis friends are some of my very closest friends in the world. Brandeis provided so much to me, but the friendships that I made and that have continued for now over 30 years are truly the best part of my Brandeis experience. Professionally, I am the Chief Business Officer for Pegasystems, a software company based in Cambridge, and I have been at Pegasystems for almost fourteen years now. As my kids are now in high school and my older daughter is a junior we are now very much starting to look at colleges, and Brandeis is most definitely on her list! I am so excited for reunion and cannot wait to see everyone!



Our family trip to Italy in 2019

Michael B. Pollack, J.D.

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Since Brandeis, the short version is: law school, dated fellow Brandeisian Tammy Friedman Pollack, '92, moved back to Connecticut where I grew up, married my better half, started a family, practiced law and actively volunteered in my community.

Longer version, after Brandeis:

After we all graduated, I moved to Virginia Beach and bartended and then attended Boston University School of Law, graduating in 1993.

Tammy Friedman Pollack (class of 92) and I started dating in 1990 and then married in 1995. We started a family in 2003 and have two kids, a son, Matthew, who is a junior in high school, and a daughter, Jessica, a freshman in high school.

Biggest accomplishments are raising these two incredible kids and planning to celebrate our 25 year wedding anniversary this summer.

To pay the bills, I started practicing law in 1993 and worked for two different law firms for 21 years, representing individuals in personal injury and workers' compensation cases. About 5 1/2 years ago, I opened my own law firm in Hartford, still representing individuals in personal injury and workers' compensation cases. Having my own solo law practice is one of the cooler and more rewarding things I've done.

Beyond all that, I have managed and run a mountain bike search and rescue team, taught classes on search and rescue and had some great times as a hockey family. Both kids have played and still play youth hockey and high school hockey. I've enjoyed being a hockey coach and I continue to play hockey for two local men's leagues. Lots of fun and a way to stay fit!

Starting this past Fall, we have begun looking at colleges for our high school junior, Matthew, and even toured Brandeis with him. Aside from all the changes on campus over the last three decades, it brought back a rush of nostalgic memories.

Looking back at my years at Brandeis and how the time affected me, I couldn't be more grateful or appreciative. I have a powerful hope that my kids benefit from their college experiences as much as I did mine at Brandeis. And to me, I can't mention Brandeis without also thinking about, and mentioning, Chumley's a/k/a Cholmondeley's. Those evenings at Chumley's, I miss that.

Over the last few years, our family has been fortunate to travel extensively and broaden our horizons with time spent in Spain, France, Italy, Greece and others. I'm looking forward to more travels, watching the kids continue to grow and develop, celebrating our 25th anniversary this summer and more than anything else, spending time with family and friends.

I remember while at Brandeis, my

grandfather told me that looking back on his life, one of his greatest accomplishments was developing friendships throughout his life, and now that we're all a bit older, his words about those relationships are more powerful than ever.

If anyone is ever passing through the Hartford, Connecticut area, and you have a few extra minutes, please let me know.



At Jessica's Bat Mitzvah



Hanukkah Dec. 2019



My hockey players



Venice

Alyson Tarr Popper

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Although so much has happened since we left the Brandeis bubble, we will not forget those 4 years there. In terms of life skills and lessons learned at Brandeis, I can think of two things. My professors really taught me how to write. Based on observations of young people at work and my own children, I think this is a bit of a dying skill. In seconds I can come up with essay topics or write the perfect heartfelt note. My kids are amazed at how I can easily provide assistance with school writing projects usually while doing three other things. In addition, the Brandeis community does not sit still and observe the world. Activism is important. People who attend are passionate about causes. They care about others and their troubles, cures for diseases, tolerance for others, climate change, immigration, etc. Those values were instilled in me when I was at Brandeis and in turn, I have instilled them in my children. Those thoughts are now second nature for my kids. I just wish I had more time to do more good in the work. My fondest memories of Brandeis are not one day or one event. Instead, it is the everlasting friendships I made. Those are the people I seek out when I need to laugh or cry. Those are the people I can text or call as if we lived together yesterday. My bucket list includes dedicating more time to my passions. I love to travel and wish to do more of that. Now that our kids are older, they have inherited this love too and wish to join us on our travels. In the past few years, my husband and I traveled through the country of Portugal, we did a

family trip with our temple to Israel, and celebrated our 25th anniversary in Bordeaux, France. Another passion is cooking. Usually, due to work, I only have time to cook on weekends. However, during this period of self-quarantine due to COVID-19, I have been baking muffins or a coffeecake and a dessert and cooking a soup each week along with nightly dinners to feed a family of 4. I have gotten great at menu planning, cooking with whatever ingredients are in my fridge and perfecting old recipes and trying new ones. My last passion is playing tennis. When I am on the court, it is my time. It is my special break from work and family.

Now for a quick update on me and my family. After 26 years, I am still running a large financial planning and investment management practice at Morgan Stanley in their Wellesley, MA office. I love what I do and find joy in helping clients achieve all their financial goals. We live in Medfield, MA and are avid Boston sports fans. My husband Jeff and I celebrated our 25th anniversary last year. His background is in marketing and he is currently working at a toy company. We have two boys – Isaac is 18 and Brandon is 14. Isaac will attend Tulane University in the fall. He knows how close I am with my Brandeis friends and one of his big worries is that he will not be able to find the same level of ever-lasting community that I have.



Sandy Rappaport

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

After Brandeis I moved to NYC for a year, where I worked as a paralegal for a small law firm that I met during on-campus interviewing at Brandeis during my senior spring, then I moved to San Francisco to attend law school at UC Hastings College of the Law. I thought I'd be in California for three years and then head back east, but I graduated in 1994 and haven't left the Bay Area since. I'm a partner at the law firm of Hanson Bridgett LLP, where I've worked for 26 years, practicing labor and employment law for California employers. I married my husband (Matt Disco), whom I met in law school, in 1998. We have two sons, Robin and Hunter, who are now 19 and 17. Robin is a student at Wake Forest University in North Carolina (class of 2023) and Hunter is graduating high school as part of the pandemic class of 2020 and will attend Northwestern University (hopefully in person) starting in the fall of 2020.

I had been excited to return to Brandeis for our 30th reunion — I haven't been back since 2000 when I attended our 10th — so I'm disappointed in the way things have turned out. Hopefully we'll have another chance to gather in the future.



With my family back when we could travel!
(Tokyo 2019)

Rachel Reisman

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

After Brandeis I pursued an MSW and have been an LICSW in the Boston area for the past 25 years. I've worked in hospitals, immigration centers and recently joined Newton-Wellesley Psychiatry. My commitment to service, social justice & compassion, all Brandeis core values, has informed my life & clinical practice throughout the years. I'm delighted & proud that my oldest daughter, Gemma, will call Brandeis home this Fall!



Pete Rosen

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Well I am married with 3 children, a 22 year old son who is about to graduate MTSU with a double major in bio and chemistry and he is working as an EMT right now so prayers please. I have a 20 year old who is in his second year at Auburn and is a state champion baseball player. I have a 16 year old daughter who is a 2 time world champion jump roper. I am a lawyer in Nashville, Tennessee but will always be from Botson.

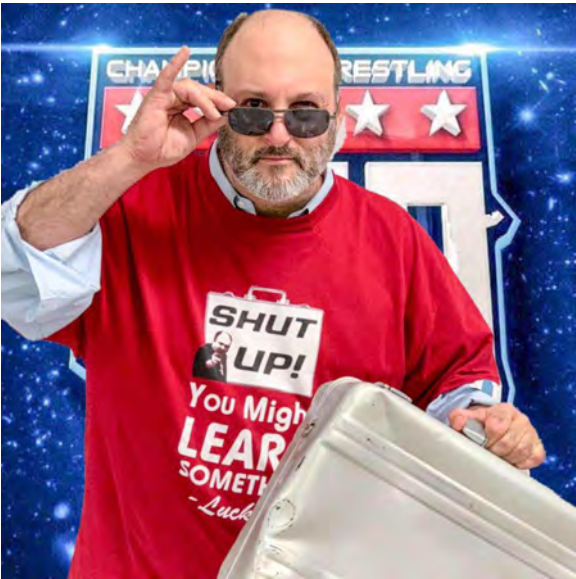
In addition to all of that, I am living a little dream as Lucky P. Larson, Esquire, a heel manager for USA Championship Wrestling based in Tennessee. I am also the color commentator for our television show, have a fan club with about 1,500 members online (the Legion of Lucky) and my own Facebook page (Lucky P. Larson, Esquire). There is a Youtube channel for the Legion of Lucky and an Instagram page as well. I have worked with many big names over the last several years even though our little league is small compared to the real big ones. I have been hit with Jimmy Hart's megaphone, with Jim Cornette's tennis racket, have had dinner with Rikishi more than once, been wormed by the Boogiemán and work regularly with Jerry Lawler. I have been to the last 9 Wrestlemanias (this was to have been my 10th) and have been to 3 after parties following Wrestlemania with the WWE roster. I have also become good friends with several wrestlers from my youth including Lanny Poffo, Daffney and Missy Hyatt. So yeah.

I still keep in touch with a few friends from Brandeis and even named my middle child (James) after my closest friend from college, Jim Perle who is a doctor in New York.

I also coach little league baseball although not right now obviously.

I have some great memories from Brandeis, some I will cherish forever.





Hilary Shein Rothman

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

After Brandeis, I went to Columbia University for an MS in physical therapy. I work as a pediatric physical therapist, treating children in preschools and private settings. I am married to a wonderful man, Eric Rothman, and we look forward to celebrating our 26th anniversary soon. We are blessed with three incredible daughters. Natalia, 23, is married to Moshe Lehman (yes, I'm a mother-in-law... crazy!) and is at NYU studying nursing. Arielle, 21, is at Harvard College studying engineering. Daniella, 18, is on a gap year studying in Israel. Next year, she will attend Stern College to study education and play on the women's basketball team.

This past summer, my husband and I had an extraordinary experience visiting Budapest with Daniella, who played basketball for Team USA in the European Maccabi Games. We had a blast cheering for her team and watching them win the gold medal!

My hobbies include dancing ballet, playing basketball and cooking/baking.

I still keep in touch with many of my Brandeis friends and they are special people who enrich my life. I treasure those friendships and look forward to nurturing them forever!



Ken Samuel

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I live in Sherman Oaks, CA with my wife Stella Zweben Samuel '91 and daughters Sara —age 15, entering her Junior year of H.S.— and Betsy —age 12, entering Seventh Grade. Stella is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice based in Encino, CA, specializing in adolescent and family therapy.

After Brandeis and Boston College Law School, I worked for almost 25 years in corporate and creative roles at NBCUniversal in NYC and Universal City, CA, most recently leading the Program Standards team responsible for creating and implementing content policy for scripted & unscripted entertainment programs on the NBC broadcast network. In 2018, I began an exciting new career journey, joining Apple's Culver City, CA-based global Original Content team. I currently lead Content Policy and Ratings, supporting production of Apple worldwide video content including Apple Originals on Apple TV+.

Outside of work, I serve on the Board of Adat Ari El Synagogue in Valley Village, CA and when not quarantined I love to travel and spend time in the SoCal outdoors with my family.



Barbie Scharf-Zeldes

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I have many fond memories of my Brandeis years and I find myself describing them to my clients, colleagues, husband and children. The days and nights (and next day) of setting up and breaking down for Student Events concerts, especially standing in front of a speaker as "security" for the Circle Jerks. Serving as the Clubs and Organizations Liaison. Traying down the library slope. Dancing with several floor mates to "Lean on Me." Trips to Harvard and Porter Square. Traveling to D. C. to lock arms in front of abortion clinics. Simply meeting my buddy, Dave, every Tuesday at Usdan to sit on the steps and watch people. You can learn so much from just watching.

I still watch people, and I listen, too. I carry those memories with me as proof of who I once was, and, I like to think of who I am still today. Although, I do make a concerted effort to avoid large speakers.

Of my two children, one graduated from college last May (Ohio University) and is now gainfully employed in Michigan, and one is at Texas Tech University. The first thing I noticed about the difference in our college experiences: their dorm rooms automatically closed. They had to make an effort to create relationships on their dorm floors rather than, as I perceive now, the natural, organic evolution that arose from doors that you had to close on your own. I realize that these new doors are a safety measure but it is a comment on the evolution of our culture as a whole.

Now, I'm an empty nester. You would never know it. My days are still filled with my legal practice in probate, family law and mediation. This now includes my role as an associate judge at the state hospital and as a special commissioner for eminent domain cases. Meanwhile, I have continued my volunteer commitments in varying degrees from Rotary Club Youth Education Foundation board member and Chair of the board of the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind to synagogue president, and everything in between. My highlight in 2020 is my induction into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame.

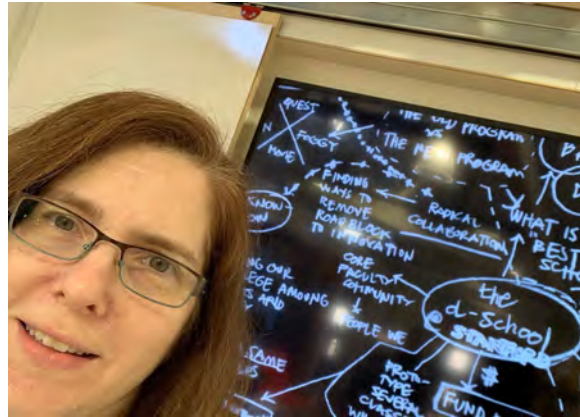
My husband is eyeing retirement from his current position in 2 years. He will find something else to do but when asked about my plans, I said I would be working for another 20 years. After assuring my husband that I would certainly like to travel and explore more, and I will, I shared that it is important to me to be engaged, make a difference, stay connected - it's what I thrived on at Brandeis and is what still drives me today.



Elana Cohen Schwartz

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I am the STEM coordinator at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School in DC teaching 3D printing, lasercutting and Design Thinking to middle school students and supporting science teaching and STEM events for a preK-8 school. I have been there 20 years and keep learning more every year. I run an amazing Design Lab/Makerspace. My advisor at Brandeis suggested teaching or museum work when I was trying to figure out my path, go figure. With my masters is in Environmental Studies I still feel like I am acting locally by educating lots of kiddos to care for the earth and have empathy to each other. My husband Steve and I are blessed with three amazing kids, Adina is graduating UMD this May, Ezra will be a sophomore there in the fall and Lila is starting 11th grade. We've "summered" at Camp Ramah in Palmer for the past 10 years. When people ask me at camp if I went there my line is, "no, but I went to Brandeis." My memories of Brandeis and Brandeis people are dear to me. At Brandeis, I learned to be my own person, made a lot of mistakes, studied way more than I should have, laughed a lot, found my path, and most importantly connected to wonderful people who I've held onto. My bucket list is long and with 2/3 kids with instate tuition maybe I'll get to do some of those things now!!





Benjamin Segal

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I liked the international diversity of Brandeis and the Boston area in general. I still use my philosophy/logic and economics everyday. Miss speaking Chinese and just ran across a journal that I wrote in Chinese that I sadly can't remember. I enjoyed playing in bands with some great musicians on campus and off. My bucket list is to get traveling again when our 3 kids are older. We have had 2 au pairs from France and I work for an Italian ad tech company, so the plans will be to go to Cannes, Southern France and then Italy in the summers. Although we do live in the Hamptons NY and enjoy the summers our here.



The family



Recently at Google London



Hanukkah 2019

Rebecca Shargel

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

After graduating from Brandeis, I served as a Hebrew and Judaic Studies teacher at Jewish day schools for ten years living in a variety of cities but spent most of my time in Manhattan. I enjoyed living on the Upper West Side and engaging in both Jewish and dance communities. In the 1990s I discovered the Alliance for Judaism and Social Justice, a grassroots organization of 20 and 30 somethings, where I met my closest friends.

Though I loved New York, I also knew that I needed to spend more time in Israel so I studied Jewish studies at Pardes Institute of Jerusalem and then later on studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as part of a Senior Educators program. Hungry for more studies, I went on to pursue a doctorate in education from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where I graduated in 2008. In addition to my passion for teaching, I got involved in contact improvisation dance and through that community (at Earthdance in Western Massachusetts) met my spouse, Ravi Mirchandani, who lived in Vermont. We married and moved to the greater Baltimore area where I was initially hired to teach Jewish education at the Baltimore Hebrew University. That school merged with Towson University, a large state university. Currently, I am an Associate Professor of Education at Towson University's College of Education. I continue to teach in a small program that prepares leaders in Jewish education and communal service but mostly teach graduate courses in research methods, ethics, and

experiential education. Ravi and I have a daughter who is eight years old and a budding gymnast who participates in a training team and currently has online practice during these made corona-times. I have a busy life balancing my life in the sandwich generation, looking after my daughter, helping out parents from afar, and publishing articles in collaborative forms of learning.

Looking back at Brandeis days, I am grateful for the incredible teachers, peers, and opportunities to learn intellectual things as well as pursue passions in art and Judaism. When Ravi and I visited the Brandeis campus, about a decade ago, I was impressed that several of my professors had won teaching awards including my advisor Marc Brettler.

I'd love to be in touch with others who graduated in 1990. Feel free to drop me a line at: rshargel@towson.edu

Wendy Shlensky

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Impact Brandeis has had on my life - I received a great education, honed my thinking & analytical skills. I met great friends, learned about art and music. I learned leadership skills running WBRS and had a great time promoting live music via The Joint & The Coffeehouse. I learned about women artists like Louise Nevelson & Bourgeois. When I was in Miami Feb 2020, I went to see a Nevelson / Atchugarry exhibit which was gorgeous. The sensual touch of the marble is dreamy to me.

I enjoy travel, mainly to visit friends, but also to see culture and nature. I've been to many countries including India, Australia, Iceland, Italy, France, UK, Spain, Canada, Mexico, Grand Cayman, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Hungary.

Some memorable vacations include:
Walking on the Floating Piers in Italy
Seeing Sagrada Familia in Barcelona
Picking up Stingrays & starfish in Grand Cayman
Snorkeling with sharks near the Great Barrier Reef
Hiking in the Daintree Rainforest & in Sedona, AZ
Taking a week long cooking vacation in Abruzzo, Italy with a few friends & some strangers
Women's Camp in Espanola, NM
Body boarding in Rockaways, NY
Attending a 24 hour wedding in Alsace, France
Enjoying the Blue Lagoon in Iceland

I have desires and I figure out how to make them reality. I had been wanting a daily meditation practice and in 2014 I started to meditate daily and it has been a wonderfully calming influence on my life. I practice with Insight Timer and it helps ground me.

I practice Kundalini Yoga. I have built wonderful friendships from my time at Brandeis and at many of the jobs I've held throughout the years.

I live in NYC which I think is one of the greatest cities in the world. There's pretty much anything I could want either in the city or within a 2 hour drive of the city.

In April 2020 when thinking about what I wanted to do when Covid/stay in place orders lifted, one of the things on my list is to fly back to Portland, OR, rent a car and drive to Bend, OR. I did that drive many years ago and it was breathtaking from a scenery perspective. Beautiful snow covered mountains and desert so hot that steam is coming off the dirt. All in the same drive.

There are lots of travel dreams and desires to see people and hug them in greeting vs a casual wave from 6 feet away. While I'm sad that our reunion was "postponed", I know that it's just a way to mark time and next time we all get together it will be glorious!



Wendy with Starfish, Grand Cayman, Jan
2020



Floating Piers, Sulzano, Italy, Aug 2016

Samara Timon

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

About 20 years ago I moved to London for what was supposed to be a 1 year secondment and (maybe unsurprisingly), I'm still here. I love my job, consulting in business process improvement, and enjoying life with my amazing partner Edward.

But there was still a big thing on my bucket list. For as long as I can remember, I loved writing. Mostly, I would write for my own pleasure but dreamed of writing a novel (and getting it published). So a few years ago, I decided to make it happen. My debut, *City of Spies*, is an espionage thriller and will be published in September 2020. Life is good. :)



At the Harrogate Crime Festival, looking a bit shell shocked and holding a proof of my debut novel



My "official" author photo.



With the other half

Lisa Serling Valentine

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

Lisa Serling Valentine, is based in Lake Tahoe, is a 29 year veteran of the real estate industry and has represented clients all over Northern Nevada and Lake Tahoe in thousands of real estate transactions. Lisa Valentine has built a solid foundation of clients in this community through her professionalism, attention to detail, and commitment to always put her client's needs first.

She studied real estate in Los Angeles and afterwards began work in the Hollywood Hills. Passionate about serving her clients needs, Lisa Valentine has continued to leverage her know-how and experience to exceed her client's expectations.

Upon moving to Lake Tahoe in 1997, She fell in love with the natural beauty of the area. Active in the community, Lisa Valentine is a proud board member of Zephyr Cove Elementary's Parent's Club. Our goal is to improve the educational experience for all community members. In her free time, Lisa Valentine is an avid skier and dog lover. Spending time in the mountains together with her friends and daughter , Jade, as well as her Yellow Labrador, Tweezer, is never something Lisa Valentine takes for granted. " If you want to breath the air the Angels breath come to Tahoe." Mark Twain

Lisa Serling Valentine still travels to see Phish and Dead and Company as well as other Jambands. She hangs out with her brother, Brad Serling, owner of LivePhish and nugs.Net . Her daughter, Jade loves going backstage has been going to shows since she was born.

We are keeping crossed for Phish Tahoe.



Aron and Judy (Libhaber) Weber

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

We recently celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary. We live in New City, NY with our two beautiful daughters, Jocelyn (21) and Faith (17). After years of socializing puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, we adopted our baby boy, Parker (now 2 ½), a Yellow Lab.

Judy is on staff at YAI - The National Institute for People with Disabilities and maintains a private practice in Clinical and Forensic Psychology (part-time). After 20 years with his law firm where he was a senior partner, Aron decided to retire at the end of 2019 with the expectation of enjoying more time with the family. Now, due to Corona, the family is spending more quality time together than we expected.

We love traveling together and especially taking cruises. Of course, there are plenty of visits to Miami Beach to visit family.



The Weber Family

Lan Xue

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I came to Brandeis on the Wien International Scholarship which had enabled me to have the most wonderful experience here. Not only I have had the excellence in academic training, it helped to shape my understanding of the world and kick off my career for the next three decades.

Not long after I graduated from Brandeis, I moved back to Hong Kong to cover the China equity market when it was just taking off. Over the past 26 years, I have been living in Hong Kong, initially working for large US investment banks such as Merrill Lynch and Citigroup and ten years ago I started my own China focused hedge fund which is now one of the biggest in its strategy. It is in Hong Kong where I met my husband and had our boy Kevin who is now 12.

Over the past 6 years, I have been working closely with the university. As a way of pay forward, I established a scholarship in my parents' names to offer financial aids to students who may miss this wonderful educational experience due to short of funding. I have been working with the very large Chinese alumni body by helping to establish the Brandeis China Club. We have organized various events in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong to keep many of us connected though we have left the campus.

I proudly serve on the boards for both the University and the International Business

School. I hope to see many of you again on campus in the not too distant future!

Andy Zeitlin

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

I continue to remain in touch with many of the friends made at Brandeis, including Susan Loeb-Zeitlin (we celebrated our 25th anniversary last year). We became a second-generation Brandeis family a couple of years ago, when our son Noah matriculated. Our older son, Jacob, graduates from Duke (remotely) in a few days, and will be starting Medical School at Cornell in the Fall.

After Brandeis, I worked in management consulting for a year before going to Penn for law school. I practiced at a mid-size law firm in NYC for 5 years; since then, I have been practicing at Shipman & Goodwin, a large Connecticut-based firm, for the past 20+ years. My practice primarily focuses on commercial litigation, and I've been fortunate to work with some great lawyers and clients during that time.

I'm sorry that the pandemic forced us to cancel our planned reunion, but hope to see many of you in the near future.



Stacy Sherman Ziluck

Tell us about your life since Brandeis...

As I sit here on my 20th day of sheltering in place, instead of on a family vacation in Arizona as originally planned, I am finding that I have a little more time on my hands than usual and therefore thought it would be the perfect moment to write this Reunion Yearbook entry.

Since graduating Brandeis I went to Columbia Business School, married a fellow Brandeisian (Scott Ziluck '91) who I oddly did not know at Brandeis, and had three children (Max (21), Noah (18) and Hannah (15)). I pursued a career in Human Resources and was lucky enough to spend 21 of those years working part-time (with a 3 1/2 stint as a stay-at-home-mom in the middle of that stretch). This January, with multiple college tuitions looming, I went back to work full-time which took a little getting used to but wasn't as hard as I thought. Most of my career I have worked in healthcare HR which I find really interesting and purposeful. I had a long stint at Lenox Hill Hospital, then took a job for 5 years at CenterLight Healthcare and, since January have been at Memorial Sloan Kettering, one of the premier cancer hospitals and research centers in the world. Looking back over the past 30 years (gulp!) I realize I have a lot to be thankful for. Like most of us, my family and I have had our challenges but overall I feel blessed with the love of my husband and children. And, even in these times of COVID-19 feel grateful to be able to spend more time with my high school senior/soon to be college-bound, Noah (who is currently taking his

sweet time deciding which college to go to - a choice between Cornell, URochester, and BRANDEIS!) and grateful for being able to spend more time with my family overall these past few weeks - reading The Testaments by Margaret Atwood with Noah, nightly face-timing with Max, doing yoga with Hannah, taking family walks, and having regular family game nights. I hope all of my fellow alum are safe and sound and look forward to the day where we have our reunion and can all see each other face-to-face.



with kids, Noah, Hannah and Max



with husband, Scott

Beth Zonderman



Poppy's Bat Mitzvah August, 2018



Design strategist at work