

Welcome From Our Co-Chairs



We were happy to meet many of you at Brandeis last month for Family Weekend and the 75th anniversary celebration. It was wonderful to be on campus on a beautiful fall weekend to spend time with our students and their friends and to meet other families.

To those unable to join us, we are delighted to introduce ourselves as the new co-chairs of the Parents Leadership Council. Our family of five, including three boys and a dog, hails from New York City.

Our family didn't have a prior history with Brandeis, though we have many alumni friends who loved their time at the university. Our middle

son, Spencer, now a sophomore studying history and music, identified the school as his first choice and applied early decision. He loved that Brandeis is a school built on Jewish values in an environment that prioritizes social justice and community service; and with a music department and liberal arts focus — Brandeis has the whole package.

We are pleased to say it has been an excellent fit for Spencer; he has a diverse group of wonderful friends and enjoys his classes and activities. For us parents, Brandeis immediately radiated a sense of community: inclusive, values-based, kind, and supportive. We want to feel more closely connected to Brandeis; that is why we joined the PLC.

Our family has strong connections to our Jewish community in New York City, including a preschool and Hebrew school which we co-founded. The founder roles required philanthropy, leadership, and fundraising — resulting in our shared passion for lay leadership in our kids' schools. Beyond preschool, these leadership roles extended into middle school and high school and now, Brandeis.

At Brandeis, most philanthropy comes from alumni. The PLC offers an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way as parents of current students.

In addition to philanthropy, the PLC offers us opportunities to engage with the school as parent ambassadors; we also have unique opportunities to interact with campus leaders and to gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of the university in real time, while our child is a student.

In what has been a challenging period due to the state of the world, we wish your students a successful end to the semester, and to your families, we send our warm wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori". The letters are cursive and connected.

Lori Fineman, P'26

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve". The letters are cursive and connected.

Steve Fineman, P'26

Co-Chairs, Parents Leadership Council

Keeping Up With the President

Many of President Liebowitz's letters to the community can be found on his website, and we encourage you to check this page frequently to stay informed. It includes the most up-to-date communications, from the announcement of Nobel Prize winner Drew Weissman '81, P'15, H'23 to several letters regarding Brandeis' position on the Israel-Hamas war.

For the latest communications from the President's office, be sure to bookmark: [Office of the President: Letters and Addresses](#)



**Commemorate Brandeis' 75th Anniversary with President Liebowitz
in a City Near You**

President Liebowitz will be the special guest at regional Brandeis 75th anniversary celebrations including:

South Florida - December 18, 2023

New York City - January 24, 2024

Southern California - February, 2024, date tbd
and more

Stay tuned for more information!

Save the Date for an Exclusive PLC Event



**Tuesday, January 16,
7-8:00 p.m. EST**

Don't miss the next PLC program, a virtual conversation with Jeffrey Shoulson, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences. Keep an eye on your inbox for more details and registration. As always, we welcome your ideas for future topics, programs, and speakers.

Welcome New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the PLC:

- Katherine Degn & David Flaxman, P'27, Brooklyn, New York
- Amy & Andrew Dick, P'25, Bethesda, Maryland
- Andrea & Steven Fleischman, P'27, Milford, Connecticut
- Jackie & Erik Gershwind, P'27, Old Westbury, New York
- Sara & Darren Gottlieb, P'26, Toronto, Ontario
- Rabbi Adam & Havi Kligfeld '94, P'26, Los Angeles, California
- Julia Paskalova & Gary Tsirelman, P'24, Fort Lee, New Jersey
- Cinthia & Horacio Rozanski, P'27, Bethesda, Maryland

- Julie & Andrew Rubinstein, P'27, Tenafly, New Jersey
 - Stefanie & Stephen Shackelford, P'27, Westport, Connecticut
 - Rebecca & Yehuda Shmidman, P'27, Bronx, New York
 - Susie & Fred Toczek, P'27, Los Angeles, California
 - Marcia Wagner, P'24, Belmont, Massachusetts
-

A Look Back at the PLC Luncheon



Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the annual Brandeis Parents Leadership Council (PLC) luncheon with President Liebowitz during Family Weekend. The gathering was a wonderful opportunity to hear updates from the president, speak with other university leaders — including Carol Fierke, Provost, Jeffrey Shoulson, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Andrea Dine, Vice President of Vice President of Student Affairs -- and build meaningful connections with fellow proud Brandeis parents. A highlight was having students join us at the end of the program for family photos. [Browse photos of the PLC luncheon.](#)

Get to Know Fellow Brandeis Parents — Host a Parent Gathering!

Are you interested in hosting a Brandeis parent gathering, large or small, in your home? If so, please contact [Judy Brasher](#), Executive Director of Parent and Family Giving.

Make Your Gift to Brandeis Before Year-End

Members of the Parents Leadership Council lead the way in parent fundraising at Brandeis, and we are so grateful for their incredible generosity. If you haven't yet made your gift to Brandeis this year, [please consider making a gift](#) before December 31. Whether directed towards scholarships, faculty development, athletics, infrastructure, or specific programs such as Hillel or antisemitism initiatives, parent gifts make a positive impact on the lives of Brandeis students and contribute to excellence at the university.

If you have questions or ideas about your involvement in the PLC or about giving to Brandeis in general, please do not hesitate to contact Judy Brasher, Executive Director of Parent and Family Giving (judybrasher@brandeis.edu).

Did you know...

Siri, Cloud-based personal home-assistant was invented by Brandeis grad [Adam Cheyer '88](#)?

Campus Opportunities and Events

Check out Brandeis' CampusGroups site for a [clubs list](#), for our 200+ clubs on campus.

Follow Brandeis Student Engagement on Instagram ([@brandeis_dse](#)) to learn about opportunities for students to connect and engage throughout the week!

Events to look forward to in the spring include weekly Trivia at 9pm on Thursdays in the Stein, First Thursday events, and Winter Involvement Fair on January 14. [See the full campus events calendar.](#)

Thanks to Our PLC members!

Co-Chairs

Lori & Steven Fineman, P'26
New York City

Immediate Past Co-Chairs

Marlene Kern Fischer '85 & Mark Fischer '83, P'18, P'23
Armonk, New York

Members

Susan & Len Asper '86, P'24
Toronto, Canada

Rebecca & Avi Banyasz, P'25
New York, New York

Nora Barragan, P'26
Redmond, Washington

Debra & Vincent BenAvram, P'26
Bethesda, Maryland

Sydna Bernstein '79 &
Gary Wenick, P'25
Katonah, New York

Rita Blanter &
Alexandre Alexeyenko, P'10, '13, '24
Topsfield, Massachusetts

Andrea Chait & Sean Walter, P'24
Seal Beach, California

Katherine Degn & David Flaxman, P'27
Brooklyn, New York

Amy & Andrew Dick, P'25
Bethesda, Maryland

Meghan Dierks, P'25
Charlestown, Massachusetts

Michele Drotman-Faierman &
Eial Faierman '88, P'26
Scarsdale, New York

Amy Feng, P'24
New York, New York

Lori & Steven Fineman, P'26
New York, New York

Andrea & Steven Fleischman, P'27
Milford, Connecticut

Judith & Paul Foster, P'25
Miami, Florida

Jackie & Erik Gershwind, P'27
Old Westbury, New York

Sara & Darren Gottlieb, P'26
Toronto, Ontario

Janice Gross & Stephen Klar, P'26

Sharon Lavi &
Jaime Mateus-Tique, P'26
New York, New York

Michelle & Steven Mayer, P'25
Woodland Hills, California

Connie & Daniel Mayo, P'24
Sharon, Massachusetts

Kate Mehl, P'23
Bronx, New York

Jackie & Doug Monasebian '84, P'25
New York, New York

Gayla & Scott Moore, P'24
Longboat Key, Florida

Amanda Morgan & Chad King, P'25
Shawnee Mission, Kansas

Michelle & Michael Nachmani, P'25
Scarsdale, New York

Leah & Richard Paglia, P'25
Westford, Massachusetts

Julia Paskalova & Gary Tsirelman, P'24
Fort Lee, New Jersey

Michele Shoueka Perlstein '89 &
Michael Perlstein, P'23
Villanova, Pennsylvania

Alison & Brandon Press, P'26
Scarsdale, New York

Cinthia & Horacio Rozanski, P'27
Bethesda, Maryland

Julie & Andrew Rubinstein, P'27
Tenafly, New Jersey

Charlotte & Bruce Sasso, P'26
Amagansett, New York

Jinah Seo & Young Park, P'26
North Andover, Massachusetts

Stefanie & Stephen Shackelford, P'27
Westport, Connecticut

Alla & Artiom Shamis, P'25
San Jose, California

Alisa Sheinberg &
Adam Liebowitz, P'26
New York City

Rebecca & Yehuda Shmidman, P'27
Bronx, New York

Brenda & Michael Stepak, P'24
Randolph, New Jersey

Janet & Robert Swartz, P'26
Valencia, California

Jennie & Joshua Tinkelman, P'26
New Vernon, New Jersey

Susie & Fred Toczek, P'27
Los Angeles, California

Jessica Vapnek, P'26
San Francisco, California

Dina Venezky & Stephen Hahn, P'24
Los Altos, California

Marcia Wagner, P'24
Belmont, Massachusetts

Lina & Eduardo Wurzmann, P'26
São Paulo, Brazil

Elli & Michael Yuz, P'26
Humacao, Puerto Rico

PLC Staff Contacts



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MA A Gift

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